

Key vote on eve of Soviet congress

Vilnius freezes independence for 100 days

From ANATOL LIEVEN in VILNIUS and MARY DEJEVSKY in MOSCOW

THE Lithuanian parliament last night voted to suspend its declaration of independence while it negotiates with the Soviet government.

The decision came after President Landsbergis finally proposed the moratorium in the wake of his talks with President Gorbachev earlier this week.

The declaration will be suspended for 100 days from the start of negotiations, a date for which has not been fixed. But deputies expect Soviet economic sanctions to be lifted immediately. Lithuania urgently needs oil for machinery and transport to bring in its harvest next month.

Last night Mr Landsbergis and the prime minister, Kazimiera Prunskiene, were flying to the Estonian capital of Tallin for talks with other Baltic leaders.

Mr Landsbergis had urged the deputies to make haste in reaching a decision, indicating his anxiety to give Mr Gorbachev a helping hand at the crucial Soviet Communist party congress on Monday. There had been rumours that the congress would be delayed because of problems caused by the creation of a new party for the Russian Federation, but yesterday it was announced that the gathering would go ahead as planned.

The mood inside the Vilnius parliament last night was tense but calm. The declaration met strong opposition from radical members of the Sajudis majority, but they seemed to realise that their struggle was hopeless after the president intervened.

The declaration, prepared by the president, states that "the Lithuanian parliament continues to express the sovereignty of the Lithuanian nation. Its goal is to rebuild Lithuanian independence. For this, the parliament desires negotiations with the Soviet Union." It adds that both the declaration itself, and "all the legal actions which derive from this", are suspended for 100 days. This can be prolonged or cut off by parliament, and will be automatically cancelled if "the Lithuanian parliament is unable to perform its functions."

Outside, a noisy demonstration by nationalist opponents of the measure had largely evaporated by the time that it was passed. One elderly man declared: "We have been sold, and now we trust only God. His neighbour was more philosophical: 'Maybe it is an advantage that our boys who have left the Soviet army will now be left in peace.'"

The Soviet armed forces have, in fact, made no effort at mass arrests or enforcing conscription in the Baltic and Lithuanians hope the deserters seized at a psychiatric hospital near Vilnius in March will be released from Anadyr in Siberia, where they are now serving.

Since the declaration of independence on March 11, Lithuanian leaders have repeatedly stated that it could not be suspended. But Mrs Prunskiene began to show a change of heart after her visits to western Europe and North America in April and May, when Western leaders urged her to reach a compromise with Moscow. Lithuania then realised that their hopes of being recognised by the West had been disappointed.

Mr Gorbachev has also moved a long way from his initial demand that Lithuania fully revoke its declaration of independence and formally return to the Soviet constitution. The central reason for his change of position has been the drastic weakening of the Soviet government over the intervening months, and the beginning of a complete transformation of the Soviet constitution itself.

The decision that the Soviet congress would go ahead on

schedule on Monday came after a full meeting of the central committee which yesterday agreed to discuss the formation of the new Russian party.

The meeting, to make final preparations for the congress, was described as peaceful and lasted less than four hours. It had been expected to be a stormy affair, as reformists and conservatives competed for the initiative, but the decision to refer the Russian party's activities to the congress apparently defused the tension.

Although the congress is to proceed as planned, it could still be held in two parts. Several party organisations, including the Moscow city party have asked for an adjournment so that delegates can consult their local organisations. That would give the reformists an advantage, as grass roots party organisations are considered less conservative than the apparatus which accounts for more than 60 per cent of congress delegates.

At the central committee meeting yesterday, Mr Gorbachev was reported to have given his views on the new Russian party and the need for consolidation.

The committee approved the draft policy document and the draft of new party rules. Both documents, and the preliminary version of the central committee report were said to have been approved unanimously, although there was one unidentified abstention on the draft programme and rules.

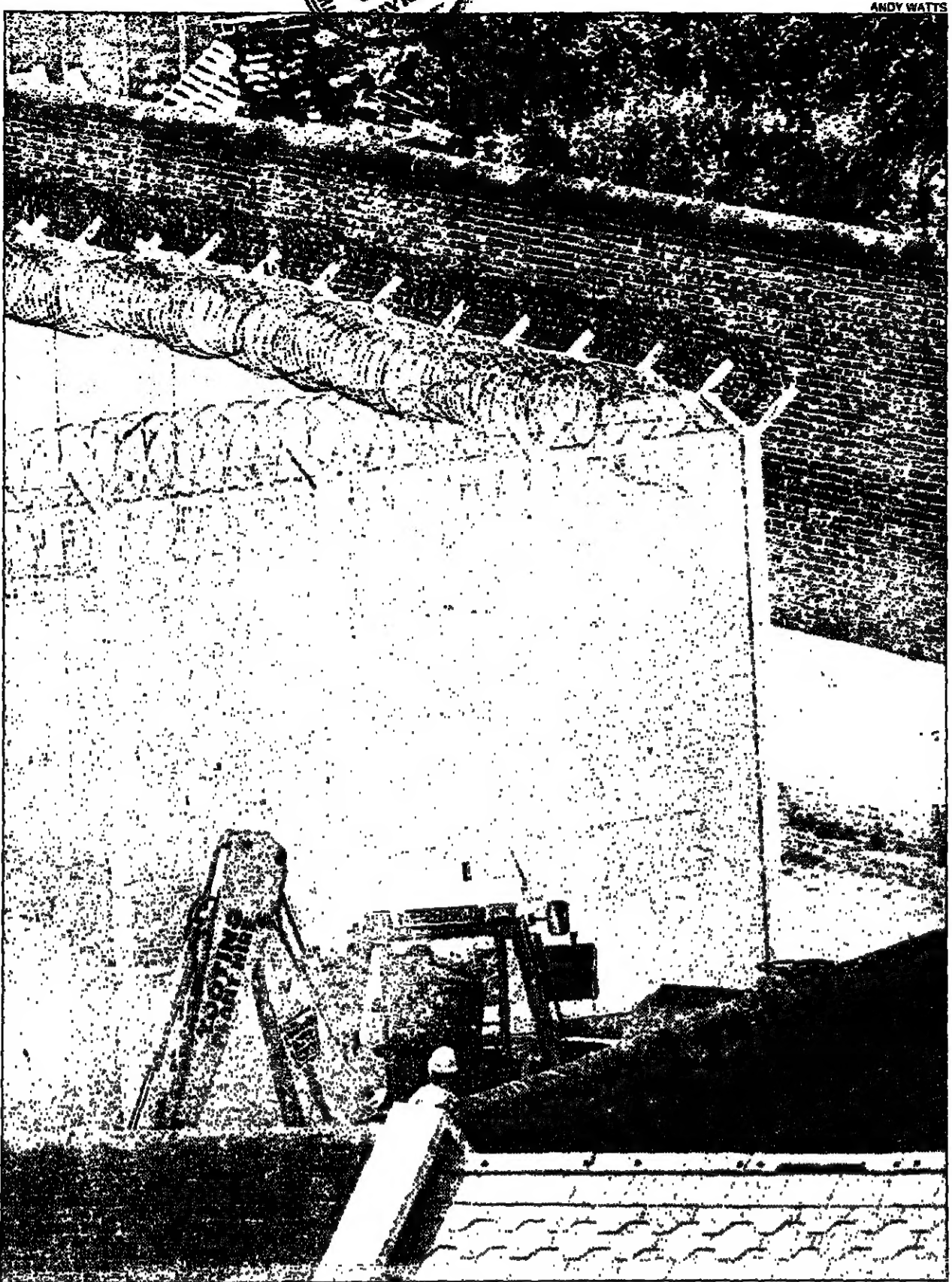
The apparent peace and harmony of yesterday's meeting suggests that a concerted effort was made to dispel the impression of turmoil in the party that has grown up over the past week.

The open conflicts in local party organisations and among senior officials about the future direction and role of the Communist party will now be transferred either to the preparatory delegates' meeting which takes place behind closed doors today, or to the full congress which opens at 10 am on Monday.

Gorbachev lifetime, page 16
Strike threat, page 10



Landsbergis: long period of hesitation over



The JCB digger with which prisoners tried to ram the perimeter wall, and (just visible) the truck that foiled them

India and China act on ozone

By MICHAEL MCCARTHY
ENVIRONMENT CORRESPONDENT

INDIA and China will sign the Montreal Protocol on protecting the ozone layer, Mr David Trippier, the environment minister, said last night during the final stages of the nine-day UN conference in London on tightening the treaty, which governs the phasing out of chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs).

The accession of the two nations, who with more than a third of the world's population between them have enormous potential capacity for producing and consuming CFCs, was "a historic step forward", he said.

The Indian minister of state for the environment, Mrs Maneka Gandhi, had told him she would be making a statement later last night that India would accede to the protocol subject to ratification by the Indian parliament. Mr Trippier said.

China and India have agreed to sign after the industrialised nations promised a multi-million dollar fund and transfer of technology to enable Third World countries to phase out CFCs and buy the less harmful but more expensive substitute chemicals now being developed, without destroying their economic growth.

The agreement is a watershed in global environmental co-operation as it will provide a pattern of joint action between developed and developing countries to tackle worldwide problems.

Prisoners hijack digger in break-out attempt

By MICHAEL HORSNELL AND QUENTIN COWDRY

THE security of Britain's jails was again being questioned yesterday after inmates at Wandsworth jail, in south London, tried to smash their way out of the prison in a JCB mechanical digger.

The escape attempt, which came after five prisoners had snatched an officer's keys to gain access to an area where contractors were working near the perimeter wall, sparked bitter recriminations between management and staff about manning levels.

Only the quick thinking of a warder, who drove a dumper truck into the path of the JCB, prevented the inmates breaching the prison wall. Six officers were hurt in the struggle to recapture the men who had overpowered the warder.

Last night, John Bartell, chairman of the Prison Officers' Association, said "under-

staffing" had been a factor in every big prison disturbance in recent years. "There is an undercurrent of tension running right through the prison system at present and it is crucially linked to staffing levels," he said.

Union officials at Wandsworth said there had been six officers guarding some 150 prisoners in the yard when the incident began and added that as few as 95 basic grade officers were on duty at weekends to supervise 1,389 prisoners. The Home Office accused the union of "hyping up" the incident and said the figure was 105.

Graham Clark, the governor of the jail, a notoriously "hard" prison with a sparse regime, immediately launched an enquiry and dismissed

claims that not enough staff had been on duty.

Brian Emes, deputy-director of the prison service, told the Woolf inquiry into the Strangeways riot yesterday that he had prevented the prison's governor from trying to regain control of the jail by force because he feared casualties would be too high. The decision had been his alone and there had been no ministerial constraints.

He added: "My job was not to second guess the governor. My job was to see what he proposed to do and whether he was logically capable of overcoming the obstacles I knew existed, in a way to ensure success or a reasonable measure of success."

Break-out failed, page 3
Storming Strangeways, page 3

Big poll tax change ruled out

NO BIG changes are to be made to the community charge system, Michael Portillo, the local government minister, said yesterday. He gave a warning that the government was ready to cap the charges of more councils next year if they exceeded spending limits.

Mr Portillo's comments, at the annual conference of the Association of District Councils in Harrogate, came as Haringey borough council in London announced that it would shed up to 800 jobs in a

package of budget cuts proposed to comply with charge capping legislation.

Plans to save £10 million, which have angered members of the local government union Nalco, would include the closure of libraries, sports centres, an old people's home and a home for children with learning difficulties. Union leaders say industrial action will be taken if council leaders continue to make plans without consulting them.

Mr Portillo made clear that the current ministerial review

was concentrating on "anomalies" rather than substantial changes. He said: "What we are not doing is looking at root and branch changes to the community charge system."

He dismissed the suggestion that councils might be given the £4 billion which they say they need to avoid large increases in poll tax levels next year. "Councils should 'reduce expectations and slim down'."

Portillo decision, page 8
800 jobs at risk, page 8

Capriati survives tough test

JENNIFER Capriati, the 14-year-old 12th seed from Florida, survived perhaps the toughest test of her career yesterday to advance to the fourth round at Wimbledon. She dropped five match points but rebounded to win the final six games and beat Robin White, from California, ranked 59th in the world, 7-5, 6-7, 6-3.

Capriati will now play the top-ranked Steffi Graf, who defeated Claudia Kohde-Kilsch 6-0, 6-4.

The men's second seed, Boris Becker, and the women's third seed, Monica Seles won more easily. Becker defeated American Dan Goldie 6-3, 6-4, 4-6, 7-5, and Seles beat Anne Minter of Australia 6-3, 6-3 on the centre court.

Match reports, page 29, 30, 34

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Saturday Review

So, who is Dick Tracy?



The private detective of American comics has never caught on in Britain, but a film of his exploits is on its way. Some people with big Hollywood reputations are very anxious that you should see it. Joan Goodman explains why

Jacket and tie for Jagger

Some of the rebellion and danger may have left Mick Jagger judging from the terms of his dinner invitation to George Melly

Vintage of the century

The English wines of 1989 are in the shops and Jane MacQuitty gives her verdict

WEEKEND LIVING

Flying down to Bembridge

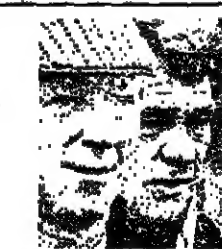


Today Safaya Hemming will be racing through the skies in search of aviation history. She was the first woman to win the Schneider Trophy air race. Can she do it again? Page 19

One man and his mansion

Hammerwood Park in Sussex was the "ugliest great hulk" he had ever seen when David Pinner took it on. Eight years later, Nigel Andrew reports on his progress. Page 17

SPORT



Managers and the methods

England and the Republic of Ireland contest the World Cup quarter finals this weekend. But more creative teams like Brazil and the Netherlands are out. David Miller considers a question of tactics over talent. Page 29

Greatest show on two wheels

Greg LeMond is back after illness to contest the Tour de France. Is the American strong enough to win again? John Wilcockson reports. Page 31

WEEKEND MONEY

Beware salesmen bearing grants

Somebody offering students a grant may, in reality, be selling them insurance they do not need. Weekend Money exposes sharp practice on the campus. Page 56

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No kissing at the altar for Japan's new princess

From JOANNA PITMAN in TOKYO

THERE was no chance of a lingering kiss at the altar, no clouds of confetti, not even a trace of a smile as Prince Aya, second in line to Japan's Chrysanthemum Throne, yesterday wed Kiko Kawashima, a shy Japanese student of psychology who thus became only the second commoner to marry into the imperial family.

Proceedings from start to finish were choreographed to the last fraction of an inch by the Imperial Household Agency, creator and enforcer of Japan's imperial etiquette. This august body, which became fossilised around the 13th century, keeps its charges on a tight rein. Imperial kissing in public is considered taboo. Over displays of emotion are frowned on.

The plucky (or short-sighted) Miss

Kawashima has just committed herself to the life of one of Japan's most restricted *hokoirumuseme* (literally "daughter kept in a box"). As a symbol of what lies in store for her, she spent the most harrowing day of her 23 years trussed up in a traditional 12-layer imperial wedding kimono weighing some 30lb while precariously balancing on her head a wig of long, lacquered hair that dangled dangerously close to her ankles. As in the most stylised Japanese tea ceremony, her every action was precise and rehearsed.

Her face, in recent weeks rosy and smiling for teen magazine photographers, yesterday seemed particularly pained, perhaps because of the three days she reportedly spent on a non-liquid diet to help obviate the necessity of having to remove her binding kimono layers to answer a call

of nature. The Japanese public by contrast, free of the uncomfortable constraints placed upon the bride, rejoiced over her nuptials.

Miss Kawashima has been warmly embraced as an attractive and charming addition to the imperial family by rich and poor alike. Almost more important, at an informal dinner earlier this month with one of the emperor's second cousins, it was clear that the inner circle of royal ladies, normally a horde of jealousy and cattiness, had been won over by her manners and modesty.

More than 98 million Japanese yesterday morning watched "Za Royaru Weddingu" on television, cooing delightedly over their newest princess. Six television channels saturated households all over the country with wedding coverage. But, having spent more than 500 million yen

(£1.88 million) each to secure rights, the channels could offer little more than gaggles of giggling female presenters who spent the day feverishly picking over Miss Kawashima's family photograph albums and interrogating her less tight-lipped schoolmates about her private life. Japanese viewers, ever greedy it would seem for banalities, learned from one of these that her favourite drink is iced apple tea topped with marmalade.

Coverage began at 6.30am, when Miss Kawashima emerged from her family home. The tension was palpable as gangs of cameramen jostled each other to get the best shot of their young target. Having performed immaculate 90-degree bows to her younger brother and her parents, the bride was swept away to the Imperial Palace. Continued on page 28, col 7

Antiquities at Sotheby's are looted, says professor

By NORMAN HAMMOND
ARCHAEOLOGY
CORRESPONDENT

ONE of Britain's leading archaeologists has criticised Sotheby's for offering what he claims are looted Greek antiquities for sale. The objects could not have left Greece "without the commission of illegal acts", Professor Colin Renfrew has told Lord Gowrie, the chairman of Sotheby's.

The objects, due for auction on July 9, are Cycladic marble sculptures dating from 2600-2200BC, which Sotheby's says are "from the Keros Hoard". The 19 lots include one almost complete reclining woman, six others lacking their heads, two detached heads, and an assortment of legs and torsos, most only a few inches high. Sotheby's estimates range from £800 for a single leg to £12,000-15,000 for the heads.

Professor Renfrew claims the

sculptures were looted from the now uninhabited Cycladic island of Keros, in the Aegean, about 30 years ago. Professor Renfrew, who is Disney Professor of Archaeology at Cambridge University and Master of Jesus College, has worked in the Cyclades since the early 1960s and is an expert on the region's prehistory.

He wrote to Lord Gowrie stating: "It is well established that many early Cycladic antiquities in marble and other materials were looted from the site of Dhaskaleio Kavos on Keros in the late 1950s or early 1960s."

"It has been publicly acknowledged for some time that the pieces in the Erlenmeyer Collection of Antiquities, due to be auctioned by Sotheby's, derived from this so-called 'Keros Hoard'."

Professor Renfrew also noted that the sale catalogue cited Dr Patricia Getz-Preziosi's standard book on Cycladic sculpture, which

included this information. The pieces, acquired by the late Professor Hans Erlenmeyer and his wife, are being sold to help fund an animal welfare foundation based in Switzerland in his memory.

Lord Gowrie declined to comment but Marcus Linell, a senior director of Sotheby's, said: "The Erlenmeyers did not buy the objects in Greece, they bought them outside, from dealers in western Europe." They acquired them about 30 years ago, he said.

"Subsequently there were excavations at Keros which produced items that were of very similar type, and the association between the two is exactly why in all the reference books the word 'Keros' appears in inverted commas - there is no evidence to support this except comparison."

He added: "Pieces from this group are in many museums both in Europe and America, and no problem appears to have been

associated with these pieces before: it's not been a subject in spite of all this publicity, learned articles and international exhibitions."

He added: "As far as we're aware, both other sculptures and some of these [from the Keros hoard] have been acquired by highly respected museums in a way that quite clearly points to there being no controversy. Museums don't buy things that are smuggled - they don't get involved with this sort of problem any more than we do."

The professor's protest had, he said, the feel of a personal crusade.

However, Professor Renfrew said: "Greek archaeologist colleagues are unanimous that the sale of this looted material should not take place, and that it should be returned to Greece. It is self-evident, since the export of such material from Greece is illegal, that it should not have left the country." Professor Renfrew's call to

halt the sale was supported by Dr Henry Cleere, director of the Council for British Archaeology.

He said: "This case once again highlights both the indefensible attitude of the government in refusing to ratify the 1970 Unesco convention on illicit trade in cultural property, and also the unenviable reputation of the London art market as the world's centre for disposing of stolen antiquities."

"If the UK were a party to the convention, the legal mechanisms would exist to enable the Greek government to recover this material, and would, incidentally, have allowed the owner of the stolen Roman bronzes from Icklingham in Suffolk to reclaim them from the United States with British government support - the convention works both ways."

Cycladic sculptures were collected mainly for their archaeological interest, as examples of the

earliest Greek Bronze Age art, until about 30 years ago. Then, according to Lesley Fittion of the British Museum in her book *Cycladic Art*, "renewed interest stemmed from perceived similarities between 'primitive' sculptures and the works of modern artists, and led to the former becoming popular with collectors and beginning to command high prices. The inherent attractiveness of the forms and the fine white marble resulted in a runaway market demand."

"Not surprisingly, this caused mayhem in the Cyclades, where cemeteries which had been left untouched for four thousand years suddenly became the centres of illicit looting."

"Graves were torn open leaving sites devastated. Moreover, if the genuine article could not be obtained, forgers were quick to step into the breach and a flood of fake Cycladic figures entered the market, further confusing the picture."

Protest to Brussels, Howard tells firms

By NICHOLAS WOOD
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

MICHAEL Howard yesterday urged employers to join the government's crusade against the European social charter.

The employment secretary believes the social action programme stemming from the charter threatens 5.5 million part-time jobs in Britain, and could push up national insurance contributions for 1.75 million people working more than eight hours a week.

He called on business to support his efforts to persuade the European Commission to drop its directives covering part-time and temporary workers by taking their case to Brussels. "It is important to demonstrate to the commission and to other member states how damaging some of these proposals could be. I would therefore urge you to take every opportunity to put forward your views and to draw attention to the practical effects of what the commission is proposing," he told engineering employers in Bolton, Lancashire.

Labour said firms should ignore Mr Howard's appeal. Tony Blair, the Opposition employment spokesman, said: "Employers would be wise to look at what the EC proposals actually say rather than the government's jaundiced views."

Meanwhile, Edward Heath rebuked ministers over their refusal to embrace a single European currency and a central bank.

West Germany's swift move to unite the eastern and western mark was a classic example of how currency union could be achieved, given the will, he told a conference of business and political figures in Edinburgh. Further delay could rob the City of London of its already declining role as a prime financial centre.

"Chancellor Kohl has achieved in a few months what we have been nattering about for 11 years, and still haven't taken any effective action of any kind," he said.

The Tory Bow Group has urged the prime minister to use the December conference on political union as a springboard for radical change in the EC. It called for increased privatisation across Europe, automatic extradition of terrorist suspects, ratification of European Court judges by a panel of politicians from national parliaments, and a constitutional mechanism for members to secede from the Community.

Authorities allowed to hold over health debts

By JILL SHERMAN, SOCIAL SERVICES CORRESPONDENT

THE government has decided to minimise political disruption in the run-up to its health service reforms by allowing health authorities in severe financial difficulties to overspend their budgets.

Kenneth Clarke, the health secretary, said that a "handful of health authorities", mainly in London, would be allowed to carry debts over into next year. Speaking in Nottingham after the NHS and Community Care Act received Royal Assent yesterday, Mr Clarke said that most authorities would still be expected to clear any debts by April 1991 to create a "level playing field" for an internal market, but where there were acceptable explanations some debts could be held over. He said that most authorities in this position were in London.

The decision follows a spate of ward and bed closures in London, Newcastle upon Tyne, Birmingham and other areas, which NHS managers have blamed on inflation and pay award underfunding. Some London authorities have approved programmes to save up to £9 million.

Mr Clarke dismissed Labour's 10-point repeal of the plans as peevish and shallow. "Robin Cook is like a small boy having a temper tantrum. Every single point by him is negative, and favourite Labour verbs such as 'to abolish', and 'to replace' litter what he chooses to call his comprehensive response to the health reforms," Mr Clarke said.

Mr Cook, Opposition health spokesman, said on Thursday that Labour would repeal self-governing hospitals and GP budget holders, but would retain some elements of the reforms. Mr Clarke claimed that undermined the absence of a Labour health policy. The NHS and Community Care Act will allow hospitals to submit applications for self-governing status and GPs to formally apply to become budget holders. Mr Clarke expects about 70 hospitals and units to apply to become self-governing and 400 GP practices to volunteer to hold budgets.

NHS trusts, which will opt out of health authority control, will be able to set their own pay rates, manage their

own assets, and borrow money from the private sector. They will be managed by separate boards or trusts which will be appointed later this year. After a three-month consultation period, Mr Clarke will decide which of the applications should go forward, based on the submissions he receives and his own assessment of the hospital's competence.

GP budget holders will be able to shop around for hospital care and take on more minor surgery in their own practices. Both reforms are key elements of the government decision to set up a competitive market in health care. Health authorities will have to draw up contracts with all hospitals specifying levels of service provision and quality standards. Money in future will follow the patient with hospitals being "rewarded" for doing extra work.

Few changes were made during the bill's passage. One of the most significant changes to the white paper was the government's decision to abandon cash limited drugs budgets before the bill was published. Attempts by the House of Lords to amend parts of the bill covering new community care reforms were overturned by the Commons on Wednesday.

Under that part of the act, local authorities will take over responsibility for the social care of the elderly, the mentally ill and the mentally handicapped. The government said that it might have to delay that part, if local authorities, struggling with the poll tax, are not ready to implement the changes next April.



Penelope Keith accepts a bust of Lord Olivier yesterday for the Actors' Benevolent Fund. The Peter Lambdin work was presented at Chichester Festival Theatre. It had been on loan to the late Virginia Fairweather, a friend of Lord Olivier

Radon traced to phosphate pebbles

By DAVID YOUNG

RADIOACTIVE gas detected in houses in Northamptonshire has been traced to a layer of phosphate pebbles lying under the ironstone strata which 100 years ago brought prosperity to the county.

The local authorities in the county are now seeking a government grant of £50,000 to allow them to continue the scientific work which has identified the source of the radon, a gas which has been found to cause cancer, particularly some lung cancers.

It was previously thought that radon was emitted naturally only by granite. The gas has been identified in Cornwall and around Aberdeen.

However, a national survey four years ago by the National Radiological Protection Board found that homes in the Northamptonshire area of Northampton had higher than expected levels of radon recorded by detectors in cellars and basements. The results of the survey, carried out at the homes of council staff,

surprised the board as there are no known granite deposits in the area.

Wellingborough borough council and Diana Sutherland, a research fellow in geology at Leicester university who lives in the area, continued their investigations and after two years' work found the source of the radon. The ironstone layer stretches northwards from Wellingborough to cover most of the county.

Many of the ironstone deposits have been exhausted, but geologists have found that phosphate nodules which contain traces of uranium are emitting radon.

Maurice Jones, Wellingborough's environmental health officer, said that the seeping of radon into homes could be tackled by sealing floors or by slightly raising air pressure in cellars or under-floor areas with a fan. So far 180 people had taken up an offer from the National Radiological Protection Board and had detectors installed.

£8,000 fines over banned pesticide

By CRAIG SETON

FIVE gamekeepers and a farmer were fined a total of £8,000 yesterday for using a banned, highly toxic pesticide that killed a red kite, a rare bird of prey, on the estate of the Lord Lieutenant of Hereford and Worcester.

Hereford magistrates were told that the 28 gallons of endrin recovered after a police enquiry were enough to kill 11,000 people, 26,000 dogs and 2.7 million birds the size of a red kite.

The pesticide was kept by the gamekeepers as a tool of their trade. They used it to inject into bait to kill foxes that were attacking pheasants being reared for shooting. The court was told that the chemical, banned in 1983 because of its exceptional toxicity, was being passed between the men for about £50 a gallon in the west of England.

The court was told that it killed a gundog and the red kite and was being used so indiscriminately that it could have been a hazard to the public using rights of way. The red kite that died was one of 11 brought from Sweden by the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds and released into the wild to encourage its numbers in England.

The society said after yesterday's prosecution, which was brought by the Ministry of Agriculture, that the fines imposed on the men, and total costs of £1,250, was a warning to gamekeepers to stop using outdated methods.

Six men, five gamekeepers and a farmer, had pleaded guilty to a total of 20 charges involving the storage, use and supply of endrin.

They included John Noble, aged 41, gamekeeper at Gately Park, at Leintihall Earls, Leominster, the home of Captain Thomas Dunne, Lord Lieutenant of Hereford and Worcester. He pleaded guilty to storing endrin and using the banned chemical in pheasant carcasses, resulting in the death of the red kite and a dog. His case was adjourned.

Mr Noble said he was using the pesticide to protect pheasants from foxes and badgers. He said he had used it for 20 years and had never had any problems. He said he had used it on the estate of the Lord Lieutenant of Hereford and Worcester.

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BR accused of racial discrimination

By TIM JONES, EMPLOYMENT CORRESPONDENT

BRITISH Rail is facing a series of industrial tribunals to answer allegations of racial discrimination against black employees seeking promotion.

Jimmy Knapp, general secretary of the National Union of Railwaymen, said that the cases could be the tip of the iceberg and suggested that racism could be a big problem within the corporation.

The cases arise from aptitude tests taken by workers based at Paddington, central London, who wanted to become drivers or progress within the corporation's clerical structure. The union's contention was that in no case should a candidate originally classified unsuitable for training be reclassified as suitable or suitable with reservations.

The board's letter said: "The consultants inform us that although improvements to the process of selection can be made, that as it stands it is a justified and proper method of selecting the most suitable candidates to go forward for training as drivers."

The board added, however, that while it believed claims for racial discrimination were unjustified, it was possible, that the failed applicants could be re-tested in the not too distant future.

Mr Knapp said: "This is statistically impossible. The NUR will not tolerate for one second racism or discrimination of any kind from employers. We condemn it, root it out and defeat it. I will be telling the British Rail board that there is discrimination in this case and we are going to have to have an enquiry."

According to the union, one of the failed candidates had a degree from an Indian university, another was taking an Open University degree in mechanical engineering while another was studying for an advanced City and Guilds qualification.

The figures emerged after one of the failed candidates demanded details of how he had failed his test. Now he,

Prince is kept in hospital

THE Prince of Wales was said to be comfortable yesterday in Cirencester Memorial Hospital, where he is being treated after breaking his arm in a polo match on Thursday.

The prince is being kept under observation by Bruce Morris, consultant orthopaedic surgeon from Cheltenham General Hospital, who re-set the break above his right elbow.

Yesterday the Prince was visited in hospital by the Princess of Wales and their two sons. He is not expected to be discharged before today.

Blast kills boy

Stuart McIlverry, aged 15, was killed yesterday in an explosion at his home in Birmingham, believed to have been caused by a gas cylinder. A passing driver attempted to save the boy, but was beaten back by flames. Jamie McIlverry, aged ten, escaped and was treated for shock. The explosion tore off the roof and blew out the windows of the house.

Arms arrests

A man and woman were arrested yesterday after 10 lbs of home-made explosives and detonators were found in a turf stack near Emyvale, co Monaghan. Another man was held after 4,200 rounds of ammunition were found on the roadside at Rabene, co Kildare.

Treasurer jailed

Robert McEwan, assistant treasurer at South Glamorgan county council, was jailed for 18 months yesterday for stealing £40,000 from the council. McEwan, aged 36, of Buntown, Cardiff, had falsified accounts between January last year and last March, Cardiff Crown Court was told.

CORRECTION

A photograph of the ballet dancer Elisabeth Platel was incorrectly captioned as a picture of Sylvie Guillem in last week's Saturday Review. We apologise to both dancers for the mix-up.

By Raymond K. Jones, a former member of the British Council, who was in the Philippines in the final months of the war, which is sponsored by the British Council.

Following the death of the Islamic art historian, Anthony Hunt, a further portion of his important and superb collection released by his mother to A. Wellesley Briscoe and Partners for an immediate

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Anthony M. Hunt died in October 1985 at the early age of 53, after a period of ill health.

He had been educated at Mill Hill and Worcester College, Oxford. After a period on the Stock Exchange, travelling, and running his own art gallery in London, he returned to academic studies at the School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London, where he increased and resumed his life-long passion for the art of the Middle East. His studies led to several periods in the Middle East where he also served as Assistant Director of the British Institute of Persian Studies in Tehran.

His academic studies, writings and acquisitions were especially related to Iran where he collected and travelled extensively. His long association with the major Islamic festivals, especially those in London in 1971 and 1976, which he was instrumental in organising, and the International Carpet Conference, meant that exceptionally important and magnificent creations passed through his hands.

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Officers foil breakout as prisoners seize JCB

By MICHAEL HORSNELL

TOP-SECURITY prisoners in masks and balaclavas commandeered a JCB digger in an attempt to ram their way through the 20 ft wall at Wandsworth prison yesterday.

The bravery and quick-thinking of an officer who seized a dumper truck to block the path of the digger prevented a mass escape during a disturbance involving 150 inmates.

Two officers were seriously hurt in hand-to-hand fighting, and another four suffered minor injuries as they struggled with the prisoners for more than 30 minutes. Prisoners in the D-wing exercise yard who were not planning to break out formed a barrier round the would-be escapees in an attempt to prevent officers from getting to the seat of the trouble.

An enquiry was underway last night to determine how the rioters, including 13 category A prisoners, almost achieved what could have been the biggest escape in modern prison history. But the Home Office played down the suggestion that many of the 150 intended to flee.

Terry McLaren, branch secretary of the Prison Officers' Association at Wandsworth, in south London, said: "It was a very ugly scene for over half-an-hour. This was pre-planned and it happened in broad daylight in front of staff. It happened because the inmates realised the officers were not in a position to be able to respond effectively."

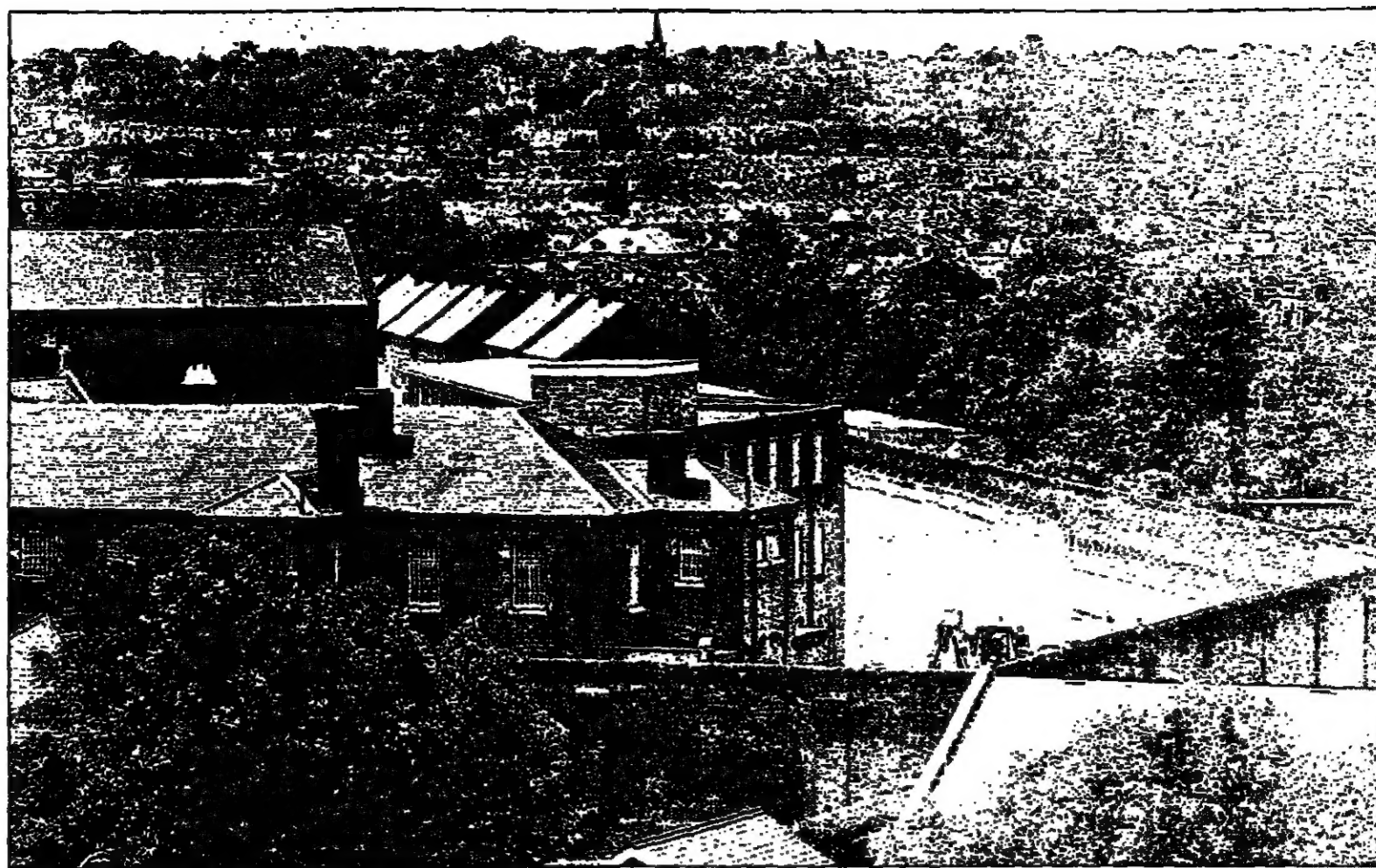
"If it had not been for the quick-thinking of a member of staff who brought the dumper up, there is no doubt the prison wall would have been extensively damaged and a number of inmates would have escaped."

Mr McLaren said that staff shortages meant there were only 170 officers on duty guarding 1,480 prisoners, 166 officers fewer than the recommended number of 336, although the prison governor, Graham Clark, denied that there were too few men on duty. Mr McLaren added that staff were anxious about their ability to control the prison this weekend, when only 95 officers are rostered per shift.

The escape attempt at a prison where inmates spend 22 hours a day in their cells



McLaren: fears for jail security over weekend



An aerial view of Wandsworth jail and the JCB digger prisoners tried to drive through a 20 ft wall yesterday

Imprisoned in the eye of the storm

By QUENTIN COWDRY HOME AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

because of its swift efficiency and the way prisoners had balaclavas and other paraphernalia. Officers had the rioters under control by 9.40am, and no damage was done to the jail. Staff maintained a high profile for the rest of the day as the prison remained calm.

Mr Clark said: "I shall obviously examine every aspect of the security and the response to the incident and I will have to make such adjustments as are necessary." He praised the officer who drove the dumper truck in front of the JCB. "I think it was a remarkable piece of quick thinking. He certainly saved the situation and prevented the incident from developing any further."

Staff have been saying for some time that they are concerned about their inability to maintain control. In the past 10 days two other attempts to smash keys have been reported. In one, an officer was wounded in a refrigerator.

Barry Sheerman, Labour home affairs spokesman, said: "I am deeply disappointed that we have got yet another serious injury to prison officers. The government must take action to reduce the pressure on the ghastly jails even before Lord Justice Woolf's report into the recent disturbances. I am calling on the home secretary to act now and we will be demanding a statement in the House next week."

that if they changed the regime they might "unleash a hurricane". Staff had an "ever present anxiety" that they would lose control of the jail.

Conditions inside the jail are among the worst in the prison estate, though overcrowding, at present, is not serious. Most inmates only get out of their cells to collect food, slop out and have their exercise each day and they only shower and change their clothes once a week; sometimes even this minimal standard is not kept to. Work opportunities and educational facilities are restricted, though Graham Clark, the governor, is trying to enhance them.

There is a strong view, at the prison department's headquarters that staff have added to the jail's difficulties by adopting a militant approach. In a dispute over new rosters in January last year, all the prison officers walked out and police were drafted in to control the jail. There was more industrial action at the prison this spring, when officers refused new admissions for a fortnight in a protest over moves to alter their London weighting allowance.

Saunders accuses witnesses of lying

ERNEST Saunders, the former Guinness chairman and chief executive, yesterday disputed the honesty of witnesses seeking to prove he was involved in the scandal over the brewing group's takeover of Distillers.

Mr Saunders, aged 55, accused "a parade of witnesses" of putting a gloss on the truth, and told a jury at Southwark Crown Court how he had heard a number of witnesses for the Crown "telling appalling lies".

Charges before the jury relate to the 1986 takeover of Distillers, the big Scottish whisky firm, by Guinness for £2.7 billion, after a struggle with its rivals Argyll.

Mr Saunders was being quizzed about a £350,000 payment made to Anthony Parnes, a co-defendant, when he made his allegations. Mr Parnes, a stockbroker, was hired to provide market intelligence on the 1985 takeover of the Bells Whisky label. Saunders said that although payment for the advice was made to an offshore company, he told the then chairman and his deputy that the payment was for the broker. John Chadwick, QC, for the prosecution, said the former chairman, Lord Iveagh, head

of the Guinness family, and his deputy Lord Boyd, had given the court a contrary view.

He asked: "What was it that justified paying Parnes twice your then salary in 1985?" Saunders replied: "I never considered what the company paid for my services, that was irrelevant." He said the main prosecution witness, Olivier Roux, a former Guinness director, recommended that Parnes be paid a fee for his advice in the Bells bid and he accepted the advice.

Mr Saunders denied the fee had been negotiated with Sir Jack Lyons, a millionaire financier, who, it is alleged, negotiated both his and Mr Parnes's £3 million fees for the later Distillers takeover. He said consultants tended to earn a great deal more for their job than full time employees.

Mr Saunders was giving evidence on the thirteenth day of the trial.

Mr Saunders, Gerald Ronson, aged 50, the Heron Corporation chief, Mr Parnes, aged 44, and Sir Jack Lyons variously deny 24 counts including theft, false accounting, and breaches of the Companies Act.

The trial continues on Monday.

Is Princess Stephanie still ready to marry?

IT was to be a marriage to rival Prince Andrew's in the splendour of Monaco's pink palace. Now all France is asking "What marriage?" Will Princess Stephanie of Monaco go through with her marriage to Jean-Yves Le Fur, or will the relationship, like so many others in her



tempestuous life, come to nothing? Tomorrow Stuart Wavell, elegant diarist and columnist who is now Paris correspondent for The Sunday Times, looks at the past and present lovers of Princess Grace's beautiful daughter.

Also in tomorrow's Sunday Times, in the Magazine, Warren Beatty talks about his life, his loves and his new film, *Dick Tracy*.

"A disagreeable boy," by his own admission, Lord Hailsham recalls his days at Eton, Oxford and the Bar in the second of three extracts from his memoirs.

Strike brings queues at Channel ports

QUEUES were forming at cross-Channel ports last night and passengers were warned to expect long delays as French seamen continued their strike and blockade.

Sealink British Ferries were not accepting bookings and advised those who had reservations to telephone before travelling to the ports. P&O Ferries were taking bookings to Boulogne and Zeebrugge, but also asked motorists to telephone before travelling. Foot passengers were being turned away.

Sealink passengers suffered delays of up to 12 hours last weekend and the prospects were similar for the next few days. French Sealink crews are on indefinite strike.

Storming Strangeways 'not worth risk to life'

By PETER DAVENPORT

THE deputy director-general of the prison service ordered the Strangeways governor not to storm the inmates on the second day of their riot because the recovery of a ruined building was not worth the risk of deaths or serious injury, the Woolf enquiry was told yesterday.

Brian Emes cancelled the operation immediately after briefing the home secretary, who was to make a statement in parliament about the disturbances on April 2. He said the decision was his alone and there were no ministerial constraints.

Mr Emes said the indications were that people could be grievously hurt, if not killed in the assault, which he did not believe carried a great chance of success. "I did not believe then and I do not believe now that that sort of injury even to one person, but certainly not to the extent I thought likely in this particular venture, was worth it," Brendan O'Friel, the governor, has told the enquiry that he remains convinced that the plan had a good chance of success.

Mr Emes said yesterday that had lives been at risk within the prison, he may have looked at the assault differently. But the buildings had already been damaged and neither the public, the staff nor the prisoners were at risk.

Had the building been reasonably sound, Mr Emes may have been prepared to

accept injuries such as broken limbs or severe cuts. "What I would not be prepared to risk was the prospect of people being permanently maimed or possibly killed from attack by scaffolding poles and large pieces of masonry that could be dropped from the roof."

Mr Emes ordered Mr O'Friel to call off the operation in a telephone call taken in a side room at the home secretary's office after briefing David Waddington. He had questioned the governor about conditions inside the prison, the weapons available to inmates and the construction of barricades.

Mr Emes said he told Mr O'Friel that he thought there would be heavy casualties, and there was a chance of people being killed. He believed that the governor had agreed that such an outcome was possible. Mr Emes said that he made the observation: "This really isn't a runner is it, Brendan?"

Mr O'Friel had carried on talking, without a pause, about a secondary attack on the kitchens. From that, Mr Emes had assumed that the governor agreed with his decision and he did not discover that that was not the case until April 21.

Mr Emes said he had not realised at the time that the staff were lined up ready to go. He would have expected the governor to make preliminary preparations, but said it had not been wise "to have the troops marking time" while the discussions about the operation were taking place.

As deputy director-general, Mr Emes is in day-to-day charge of the operational running of prisons. He ran the Strangeways incident from the prison service headquarters in London. Lord Justice Woolf asked how he could "second judge" the plan, sat in his office at the end of a telephone, when the man in charge on the ground knew the prison and the proposed deployments of men much better than he.

Mr Emes said it was desirable in such situations for someone less immediately involved to go through proposals to ensure an element of objectivity. "Sometimes the troops on the ground believe they can achieve anything and often that produces the direst results," he said.

Mr Emes agreed with the judge that it was "wholly undesirable" for him to be away from his operations room to brief the home secretary when that could have been done by someone else.

Recalled to the witness box, Mr O'Friel was asked why he had not developed contingency plans for an assault as the siege went on. He said he had had his fingers heavily burnt in the rejection of his plan on April 2 and had been more cautious about planning such operations.

The enquiry will reopen in Taunton, Somerset, on July 9. Results, with Nottingham's names

Inmates to join in jail debate

PRISONERS are to be given the opportunity of becoming involved in discussions on problems facing the prison service, in the second stage of Lord Woolf's enquiry (Peter Davenport writes).

The judge, who wrote to all prisoners seeking their comments in the aftermath of the Strangeways riot, said that he and Judge Tumm, the chief inspector of prisons, were investigating ways of involving groups of prisoners in the wider debate, beyond the disturbances in Manchester and other jails.

"We have received much useful help in the letters which prisoners have written to us," he said. "We shall continue to ensure their voices are heard."

Lord Justice Woolf said the discussions would be in addition to a series of public seminars he and Judge Tumm are holding later this year, covering such issues as the tactical management of prisons, justice within them, and their relationship with other elements of the criminal justice system.

Since the seminars were announced in May, proposals had been submitted from many sources, including members of the prison service, inmates, academics and organisations with interests in the penal system, Lord Justice Woolf said.

"There is little merit in pursuing imaginative proposals unless they have been carefully tested. Public debate is a fine way to achieve that."

St Paul's wins its ninth chess victory

By RAYMOND KEENE CHESS CORRESPONDENT

ST PAUL'S School, London, beat Truro School, Cornwall, by five points to one in the final of the British schools chess championship played at the Charing Cross Hotel, London, yesterday.

Truro had been handicapped by the absence of their star player, the reigning British champion Michael Adams, who was representing England in the world championship qualifying tournament at Manila, in the Philippines.

Individual scores in the final match of the championship, which is sponsored by The Times, were (St Paul's first): James Cavendish drew

Matthew Piper, Darshan Kumaran beat Jamie Watts, Alex Felkirk beat Laurence Jupp, Daniel Aldridge beat Roland Cole, Caspar Bates beat Craig Fearn, and Irfan Nathoo drew with Nicholas Worley.

This was St Paul's ninth victory in the championship, a record in the competition. St Paul's takes chess very seriously as can be seen from the fact that three of the top British international players, Speelman, Hodgson and Watson, are all former pupils of the school.

In the play-off for the third and fourth places, the Royal Grammar School, Newcastle upon Tyne, won on tie-break against Nottingham High School.

Results, with Nottingham's names

first, were: Stephen Joseph drew with Simon Florence, Matthew Kennedy lost to Mark Davey, Steven Maxwell beat Malcolm Suen, Liam Sewell lost to Edward Dodds, James Redburn beat Gareth D'Arcy, and Geoffrey Hodggett drew with Yanni Yannoulis.

Hundreds of schools around the United Kingdom enter The Times British Schools Chess Championship, 4 Alders Road, Hale Lane, Edgware, HA8 9QG.

Any school wishing to enter next year's competition should write, requesting an entry form, to: The chief conductor of The Times British Schools Chess Championship, 4 Alders Road, Hale Lane, Edgware, HA8 9QG.

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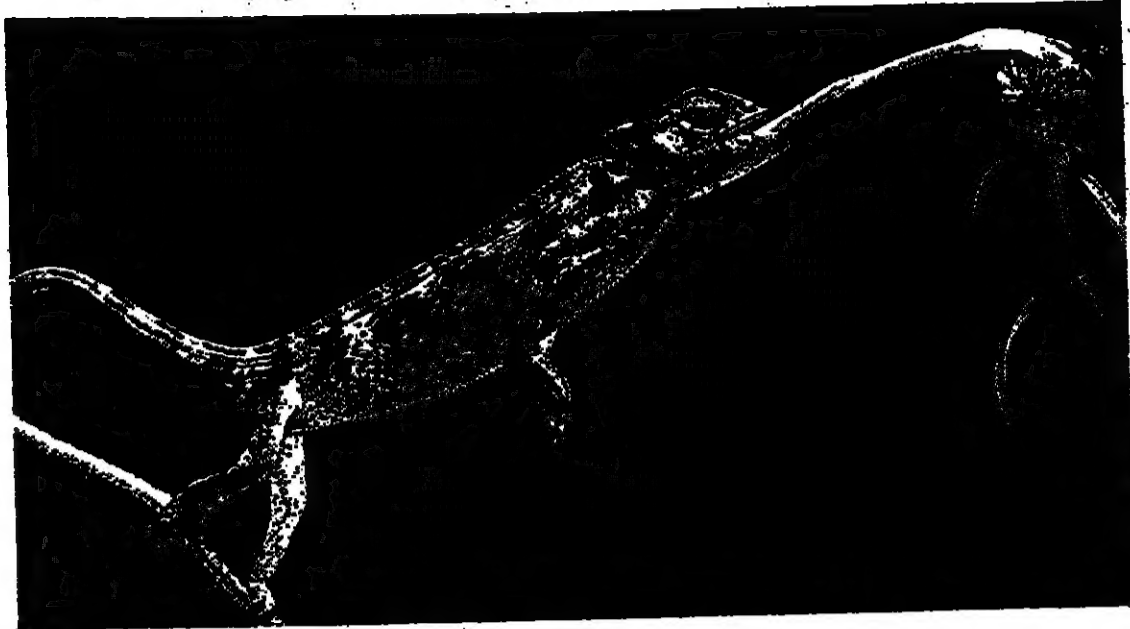
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Of the world's top wildlife photographers, Stephen Dalton is the man for micro timing. In the field, Dalton only ever shoots on Nikon. (It is, after all, the best in the field.)

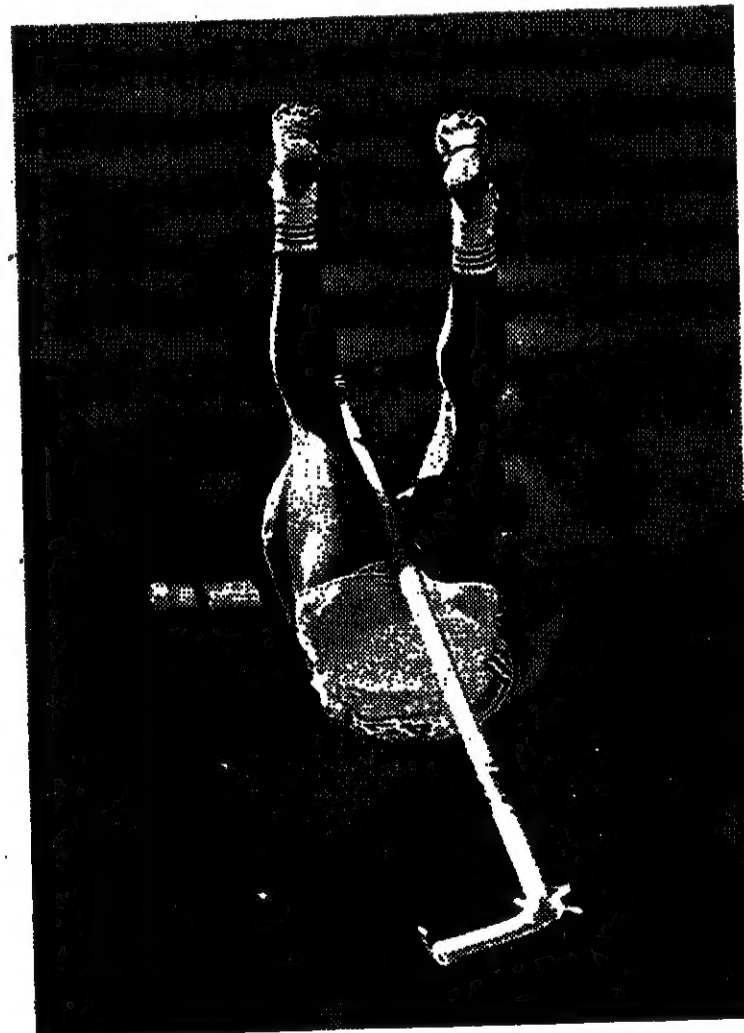


The Hawaiian island of Kauai is the wettest place on earth (17 times wetter even than Manchester.)

Globe-trotting wildlife photographer Frans Lanting took Nikons, since with anything less, he could really be in deep water.



The West Bank is no place to be caught with a camera. So Martin Cleaver, who won't shoot with anything less than a Nikon, caught this moment with a concealed camera. A Nikon compact, just like the family would use.



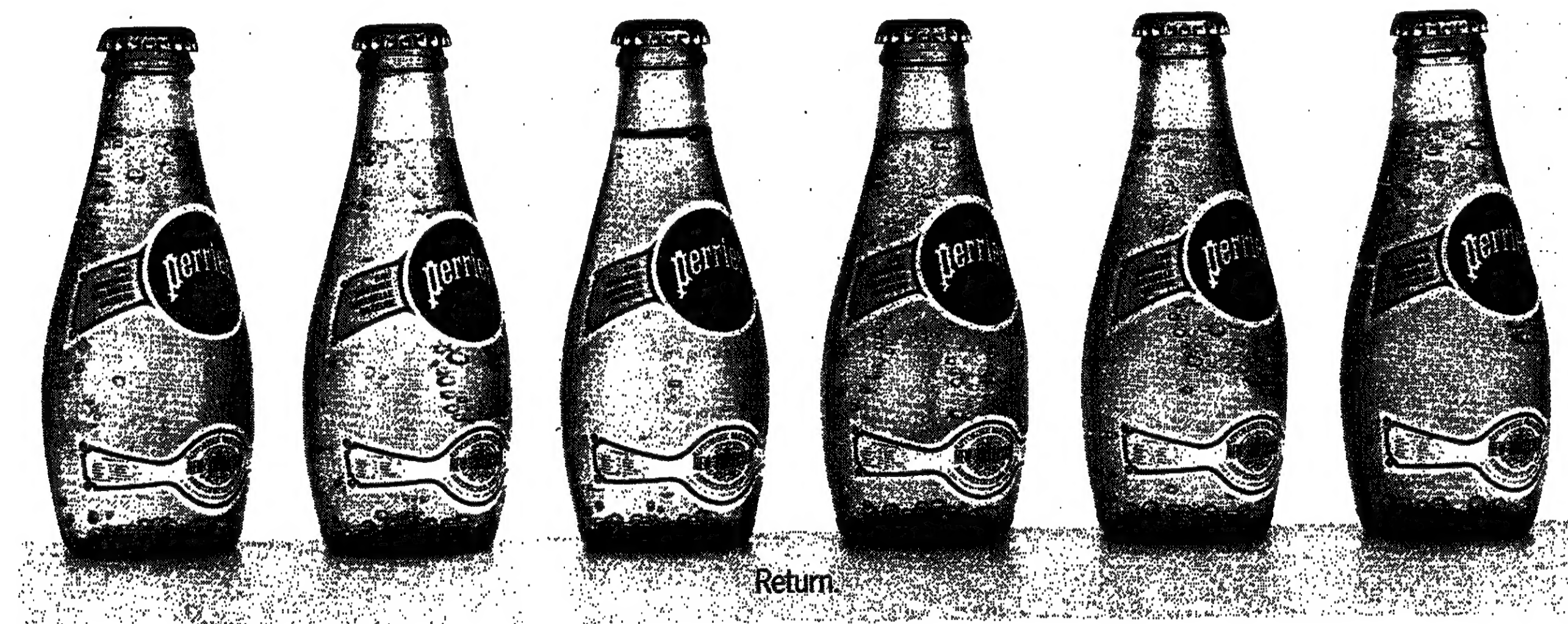
As well as taking great shots, Nikons sometimes take famous snaps. When Daley Thompson's pole broke during the Seoul Olympics, top sports photographer Leo Mason captured this split second with the one camera he'll stake his reputation on. A Nikon.



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Methodist claim 1 Briton poverty

FIFTEEN million people are living in poverty, according to a report by the Methodist Conference in Britain.

Although unemployment has fallen, the report says, the more people are working, the more poverty is being created. The report says that the poverty of the British people is a result of the higher tax, the higher the tax, the more the state can spend on social services.

The report says that the state should spend more on social services, but it also says that the state should not spend more on social services.

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Delegates vote on words of the Creed

METHODIST delegates have voted to accept the words of the Creed as the basis of their faith.

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Museum service compare troubled

THE troubled museum service has been compared to a troubled service by the National Museum of the United States.

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Methodists claim 15m Britons on poverty line

By RUTH GLEDHILL

FIFTEEN million people are living in or on the edge of poverty, according to a report to the Methodist conference in Cardiff yesterday.

Although unemployment had declined, earnings were still too low to support a family adequately because more people were taking low paid and part-time jobs, the report said. The conference, the governing body of the Methodist church, called for increased welfare benefits, higher tax thresholds, increased child benefit and capital grants instead of loans from the social fund.

The Rev John Kennedy, secretary responsible for political, social and economic policy in the church's division of social responsibility, said: "Methodists of all political views are increasingly concerned at the poverty they find around them. This is true even in the most affluent areas. Justice demands a new and determined approach to the growing blight of poverty."

Mr Kennedy said the atten-

Delegates vote on words of the Creed

METHODISTS took just 15 minutes to reach a decision yesterday on a 1,600-year debate over three words central to the meaning of the Trinity (Ruth Gledhill writes).

The debate concerned the possible removal of three words which were added into the Creed agreed by the church in the east and west by the Council of Constantinople in 381.

The conference "expressed its willingness to restore the Nicene Creed to the form agreed by east and west in AD381". Methodists would, though, only restore the Creed if and when there was sufficient agreement in the western church as a whole.

The three words are a stumbling block in relations with the Orthodox Church at a time when contacts are growing, according to a report to conference. The Filioque clause added the words "and the Son" to the Creed: "We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son." It thus affirms a belief which is an integral part of the doctrine of the Trinity.

While western churches have used the clause for centuries, the eastern churches have never adopted it. The Orthodox Church gives high authority to the early Creeds. The British Council of Churches has asked individual churches to decide where they stand on the clause.

Museum service compared to troubled NHS

By SIMON TAIT, ARTS CORRESPONDENT

THE troubled museums service has uncomfortable similarities with the National Health Service because of inflation and diminished public funding, according to the judges of the Museum of the Year Award.

David Trippier, the heritage minister and deputy chairman of the Conservative party, who is to present the 1990 award next Wednesday, will hear a warning about the danger of forcing too many institutions, including the largest museums, to look to the private sector for a bigger percentage of their funding.

In their report the judges, chaired by Sir Hugh Casson, a past president of the Royal Academy of Arts, and including Lord Morris of Castle Morris, chairman of the Museums and Galleries Commission, say there has been a rise in the number of museums (a new one is estimated to be opening every fortnight) but point to a constant erosion of financial foundations of the biggest national museums.

The report says: "The temptation is to say that all that is necessary is to produce a master plan which will reform the system. As with the NHS the probability is that only piecemeal reform is possible. Inflation and the rocketing cost of modern techniques of conservation — not to mention the grossly inflated cost of buying almost any object or painting, thing, object or painting, which museums might want — has made expectations impossible to satisfy."

"It cannot be right that the

tion paid to young people sleeping rough had masked the state of Britain's housing. According to the report, there is still a shortage in affordable rented housing.

The report, *Modern Poverty: the issue*, says: "Government figures indicate that some 10 million people live at benefit level. Social security benefits are not over-generous; independent research has shown that families with incomes as much as 30 per cent above benefit level experience a sharp falling off in their living standards, particularly if they are dependent for a long period. This suggests that another five million people are living on the edge of poverty."

The reasons for this are plain: there has been a huge growth in unemployment in the last decade. The recent decline in unemployment has seen people taking low-paid and part-time jobs, with earnings still too low to support a family adequately."

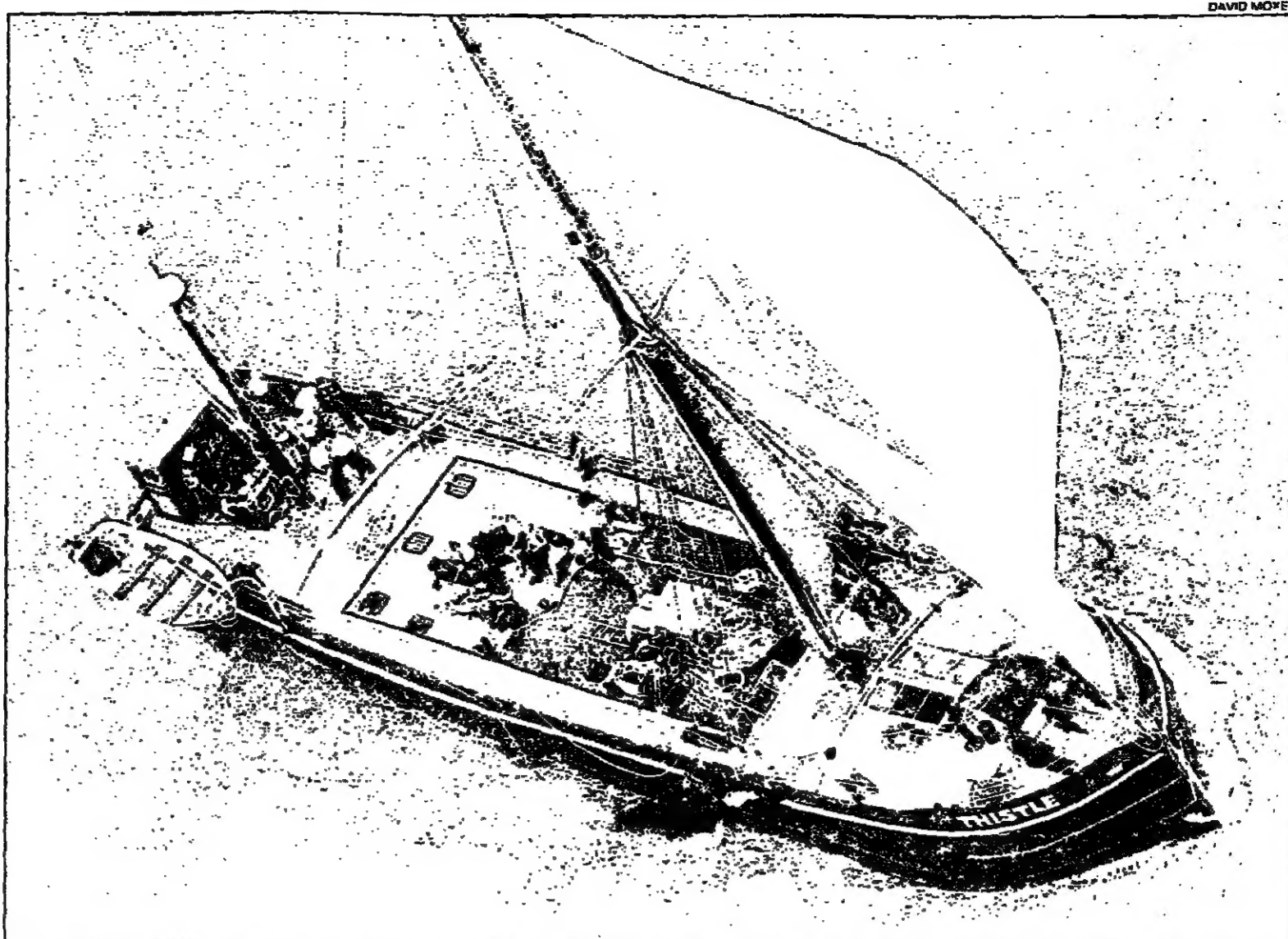
The report criticised the government for continuing the freeze on child benefit and said the social fund was the least defensible element in the benefit system. "The churches predicted in 1988 that poor people would be plunged into debt through the system for loans for beds, cookers and so on. This has come about."

The report highlighted the loss of nearly half a million dwellings from the private rented sector and said the 1988 Housing Act, which aimed to bring into the market large numbers of unoccupied or under-occupied properties in private hands, had not worked. Public awareness of homelessness disguised an even more widespread housing disaster. The report claimed that housing benefit was being cut and local authority and housing association rents were increasing sharply.

Those who attempted to earn their way out of poverty found that as earnings increased, they lost more in taxation and lost benefit while the more prosperous enjoyed the benefits of a wide range of tax concessions. The report said housing policy was failing to meet an evident need. "Annual targets need to be set for the addition of affordable rented accommodation to the present stock."

Sister Ann Shepherdson, a deaconess from Ireland, said: "Here in Britain we have many church buildings which seem too large for our requirements. Maybe we could allow some of them to be refurbished to become homes for the homeless."

The Rev Ian Yates, of northwest London, said homelessness would not be solved by "sleeping bags on the floors of our churches. It will be solved by giving a decent income to those from whom in recent years the government has withdrawn it."



Neat as a painted model boat, the Thames barge Thistle under sail near Harwich this week. Built in 1895 in Glasgow, the restored metal hulled craft will compete with 17 other sailing barges in the annual race on the river Orwell between Ipswich and Harwich this weekend

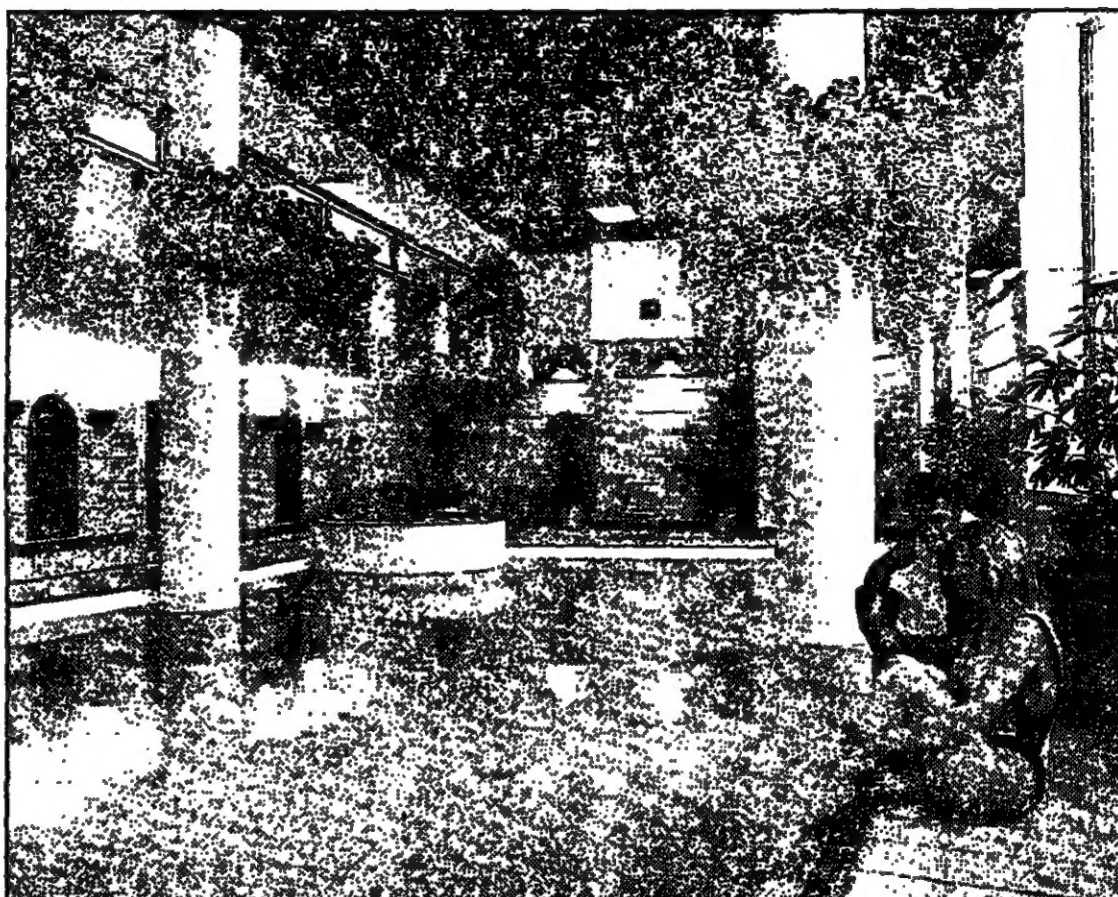
Service to dedicate Lockerbie memorial

By ANDREW COLLIER

RELATIVES of those who died in the Lockerbie air disaster will gather today for the dedication of a memorial to the victims of the bombing 18 months ago. A remembrance room is being opened at Tundergarth, the tiny hamlet where the nose cone of the Pan Am Boeing 747 landed after the mid-air explosion.

The memorial is in the grounds of Tundergarth church, across the road from the crash site. A former gravediggers' hut will hold a book of remembrance recording the names, addresses and nationalities of the 270 people who died in the disaster. About 150 people from Britain, the United States and Europe are expected to attend the service of dedication for the room, which is intended to be a place of reflection near the farmland where many of the bodies were found.

Gordon Wilson, the manager of the Lockerbie Air Disaster Trust Fund, said: "Many of the Americans wanted a memorial at Tundergarth because so many of the victims were found there. We think it is ideal. The hut has been completely refurbished, and relatives and friends who come over will be able to sit in peace and pay tribute to those who died."



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Fairclough Homes

Rafsanjani attacked by hardliner on links to West

From JAMIE DETTMER in TEHRAN

THE earthquake in Iran has brought the country's deep political divisions to the surface, with President Rafsanjani yesterday defending acceptance of aid from long-time enemies, while his leading hardline opponent rejected any move to resume diplomatic relations with the United States or to negotiate over the release of Western hostages in Lebanon.

Hojatolislam Ali Akbar Mohtashemi, the former interior minister, said that a "psychological war" had broken out within the leadership, and it was a mistake for Tehran to get involved with diplomatic negotiations over the release of British and other Western hostages.

Admitting in an interview with *The Washington Post* that President Rafsanjani had forced him to step down from the cabinet last year, Hojato-

islam Mohtashemi claimed his supporters are now in a majority in the Majlis (parliament). He said his "parliamentary opposition" was devising its own legislative programme to counter the president's pragmatism.

His opposition to hostage negotiations will be viewed gloomily in London and Washington. He has considerable influence with the Lebanese Shia groups, having helped form them in the mid-1980s when he was Iran's ambassador to Syria.

In the interview, he initially denied that Iran had any control over the Lebanese Shia groups holding Western hostages. But later he said: "Yes, Iran has spiritual influences among all Muslims, and if the Lebanese Shias feel that Iran wishes for something, then they might go along with that." Diplomats here believe that Hojatoislam Mohtashemi's opposition to negotiations will make it much harder to secure the hostages' release.

Only last month Douglas Hurd, the foreign secretary, indicated his willingness to talk direct to Iran to help free the hostages. He was responding to positive signs from Tehran and public pressure in Britain.

Two of the British hostages, John McCarthy and Brian Keenan (who also holds Irish nationality), were last seen alive in Beirut in March. Neither Terry Waite nor Jack Mann have been sighted. Hojatoislam Mohtashemi denies any personal involvement in hostage-taking, but says the Shia groups in Lebanon are "supported by the Islamic republic of Iran and by me".

President Rafsanjani, at Friday prayers here, likened people who criticised the government for accepting help from enemies to flies who do nothing "but keep pestering all the time". He paid tribute to the "wave of humanity around the world. It was very beautiful. I was very touched".

He said no one sitting in his air-conditioned room could tell entombed people to "stay where they are because I do not want foreign aid. This is not logical". Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, the country's spiritual leader, had ruled that "we have no right to reject others' aid unless they want to take advantage of the situation", the president said.

Hojatoislam Mohtashemi is believed to be strongly opposed to accepting earthquake relief from the United States, Britain and France. He is also the first senior Iranian politician to admit publicly that there is serious infighting in the leadership. He said the competition between factions started immediately after Ayatollah Khomeini died.

President Rafsanjani was attacked by Hojatoislam Mohtashemi for believing that Iran had to open up to the West to improve the country's economic performance.

The hardline position taken by Hojatoislam Mohtashemi contrasted with the president's speech at prayers on the campus of Tehran University, in which he welcomed the foreign aid sent after the earthquake.

Khamenei holds key to stability

From JUAN CARLOS GUMUCIO in BEIRUT

MICHAEL Naufal, one of Lebanon's top specialists in Iranian affairs who returned from Tehran this week, said yesterday that the earthquake catastrophe and its consequences "will inevitably intensify the confrontation between radicals and pragmatists. A natural disaster has given impetus to the debate on foreign policy in the post-Khomeini era. The only man who could avoid a political earthquake now is Ayatollah Ali Khamenei."

The spiritual leader of the Islamic republic is still pondering the course of Iran's future foreign policy, but he has already indicated that Iran will not link foreign humanitarian aid to Tehran's diplomacy.

One week before the earthquake, there was widespread speculation that Brian Keenan, aged 39, kidnapped in Beirut over four years ago, would be released soon as the result of encouraging statements in London and Tehran.

Muslim sources in Beirut now say that, if there was a plan to free Mr Keenan, the current dispute in Tehran has created new complications.

Aquino plea as Peace Corps goes

Manila — US Peace Corps volunteers flew out of the Philippines yesterday, sad at being ordered home because of feared attacks by communist rebels. President Aquino earlier expressed shock at the move and asked America to reassess its action.

About 100 of the 261 Peace Corps workers left yesterday, two days after the scheme's suspension was announced. The rest go this weekend.

Nicholas Platt, the American ambassador, said the withdrawal did not imply any erosion in support for the Aquino government. But Fidel Ramos, the defence secretary, said the move was "too hasty", while Mrs Aquino's national security adviser, Rafael Nieto, said it would damage other nations' confidence in the Philippines. (Reuters)

Top judge shot dead in Kashmir

Srinagar — Kashmiri militants yesterday shot dead the highest-ranking judge in Srinagar, summer capital of India's Jammu and Kashmir state.

Two armed men were seen running from the house of the judge, Abdul Aziz Khan. The banned Jammu and Kashmir Students' Liberation Front, fighting Indian rule in Kashmir, claimed responsibility.

More than 700 people have been killed in Kashmir since January, when militants stepped up their campaign. (Reuters)

US brush fires claim 660 homes

Santa Barbara — More than 660 homes have been destroyed in brush fires, many started by arsonists, in southwestern American states.

The devastation is the worst in the 200-year history of Santa Barbara, 50 miles north of Los Angeles. Exclusive hillside communities were hit, and in Santa Barbara alone the cost of the damage could reach \$218 million. (Reuters)



Fang Lizhi and his wife, Li Shuxian, leaving the Royal Society, in London, where the dissident professor made his first public appearance since arriving in Britain on Monday. The organisation helped to secure his release

Bush takes flak for reversing tax pledge

From ASSOCIATED PRESS IN WASHINGTON

PRESIDENT Bush yesterday said his decision to jettison his no-tax campaign pledge was warranted by a mushrooming federal deficit.

"I knew I'd catch some flak on this decision," he told a news conference at the White House. "But I've got to do what I think is right."

Mr Bush's declaration earlier this week that tax increases were an essential element of any deficit-reduction package got stalled budget negotiations with Congress going again. He said those talks are doing well.

Mr Bush won the presidency in 1988 by campaigning as an ardent foe of new taxes. "Read my lips, no new taxes," was the most memorable line of his campaign. His Republican party has made it clear it feels betrayed by his reversal.

"Arrows have been flying, back, front, sideways, but that's what I get paid for," he said. The president spoke shortly before leaving for a brief vacation in Maine.

Without a deficit-reduction agreement, Mr Bush said, automatic spending cuts totaling \$100 billion (£57 billion) could take effect on October 1, affecting defence and domestic programmes, and that the deficit for next year could total \$150 billion.

Mr Bush, asked how he could have made his no-tax pledge, said: "I thought I could do a better job of getting spending down."

China launches census as orphanages fill up

From CATHERINE SAMPSON in PEKING

THE most highly populated nation in the world will start counting its people tomorrow in a national census to see how many mouths it has to feed and whether its population control policies are working.

The results of the census, only the fourth in China in 40 years, will not be published until 1992. The statistics are expected to show that the number of mouths is exceeding China's ability to feed them. In an orphanage for abandoned children in the outskirts of Peking, some of the harsh realities of poverty and childbearing in China are apparent: 25 babies a minute are born in China and many are abandoned.

Qin Ying, aged two months, lies in a wooden cot in a room shared with another six such babies, all named Qin. "We choose a new surname for incoming babies each year," says director Ye Tielang. "This year it is Qin."

The children in the orphanage, 300 in all, ranging from newborn to 15-year-olds, have in general been abandoned because of their handicaps. "Traditionally in China having a handicapped child is not good," said Mr Ye. "Sometimes parents find deformities unattractive, sometimes they just cannot afford the time to look after them."

The babies are clean and wear ragged, makeshift nappies. Three of the children next to Ying have harelips. Another has twisted ankles. Ying lies at an awkward angle with a purple sack of spinal fluid protruding from his

back. "Most children we try to operate on, but with this one there is not much we can do," says Mr Ye. He does not expect Ying to live long.

Those children who reach the well-staffed, well-equipped showcase orphanage are the lucky ones. Babies with more severe deformities at birth may be left to die, especially in the countryside where there are no orphanages. Many rural mothers bring their babies to Peking, where they abandon them at the railway station, hoping that a kind stranger will take the child to the police and that they will pass it on to an orphanage.

Few parents take their child to the door of the orphanage because they would then have to pay a quarter of the bill for the child's keep.

Abandoned babies are not all handicapped; some are unwanted girls who might otherwise be drowned, some have been born outside marriage, some are simply in excess of the baby allowance for the parents' work unit, a mistake for which the parents might otherwise be heavily fined.

The population is 1.1 billion, and China hopes the number can be kept to 1.2 billion by the end of the century. Chinese officials estimate that strict family planning controls "averaged" 200 million births between 1970 and 1986. United Nations experts expect that births will exceed the target. Married women of childbearing age are having an average of 2.4 children.

In most provinces, the one-

child policy is relaxed where the first child is handicapped. If the first child is a girl, some rural provinces allow parents to try again because the daughter will leave the family home when she gets married, leaving her parents without support in their old age.

Even in the tightly controlled capital, an official recently admitted that there had been an increasing trend towards failing to register births. The streets of Peking are liberally sprinkled with toddlers. The growth of private enterprise in the cities during the past few years means that many millions of people are no longer answerable to state work units on their size of family. They are more likely to be constrained by economic and housing considerations.

The census takers are likely to find that in the prosperous southern countryside, rich peasants choose to pay a fine in order to have another child. Local officials turn a blind eye to the extra birth, happy to accept the cash into their coffers. China's newspapers have reported many cases of officials giving false low birth statistics to their superiors.

In poorer areas, women may be persuaded to have abortions, even very late in their pregnancies. In 1987 there were 49 abortions per 100 live births. In the poverty-stricken northern province of Gansu, where there is widespread mental retardation because of lack of nourishment and inbreeding, retarded women are being sterilised in large numbers.

Remark by Fang undercuts story of his ill health

By ANDREW MCEWEN, DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

FOR a man supposedly suffering from heart disease, Fang Lizhi seemed remarkably well yesterday at his first public appearance in Britain since arriving from China four days before.

Peking allowed its most feared and hated academic dissident to slip the net on the ground that he needed medical treatment abroad. Observers suspected from the first that it was a diplomatic illness; yesterday Professor Fang inadvertently provided confirmation.

In an unscripted and perhaps forgetful remark in Chinese, he disclosed that he was well. It had been in the interests of China, the United States and Britain, the parties to the secret deal that led to his freedom, to preserve a fiction that he might be ailing.

All three countries were playing for stakes much greater than the future of Professor Fang, a noted astrophysicist, and his wife, Li Shuxian. Neither Washington, which had given them refuge for a year at the American embassy in Peking, nor the British had anything to gain by causing China a loss of face.

Both governments have refused to be drawn on how the deal was reached and what else it involves. Professor Fang and his wife had another reason for remaining silent: the hope that China will soon allow their younger son, Fang Zhe, to join them. The elder boy, Fang Ke, who was studying in Detroit, has already done so: they were reunited two days ago for the first time in four years.

But the Royal Society, which invited Professor Fang to Britain and has given him a professorship for a year at Cambridge, was besieged by American, British and Chinese-speaking journalists demanding access. Whitehall sources said that Professor Fang might look well and say he was well, but he had asked to have tests for a possible slight heart condition. There was no suggestion that it was life-threatening, however.

The professor, who wrote four academic papers and gained at least a stone while at the US embassy, beamed for the cameras and read an anodyne prepared statement. Sir Francis Graham-Smith, the Astronomer Royal, disclosed that Professor Fang is to collaborate with Stephen Hawking, professor of mathematics at Cambridge University and author of *A Brief History of Time*, in studying the "dark matter" of the universe, which appears to account for most of its mass, yet remains invisible. "He is considering what is the structure of the universe taken as a whole. It is an area where you have to be a peculiar kind of person to understand it," Sir Francis said.

That might have been all that emerged yesterday, but for foreign journalists who begged Professor Fang to say something in Mandarin. He obliged, and his unscripted remark about his health undercut the claim made on Monday by Zhou Nan, director of the Hong Kong office of the New China News Agency, that he was suffering from heart disease. Mr Zhou is China's consul-general in the colony in all but name.

Peking has also said that its decision to let him leave followed signs of repentance. But there was no regret in

anything he said yesterday, or in an earlier statement which was "facilitated" by the American ambassador to Peking, according to the US State Department.

However, it is possible that Peking got its evidence of contrition between the time Professor Fang left the embassy and his arrival at an airfield to board a US military plane sent to collect him.

The State Department has disclosed that it allowed the Chinese authorities to confront Professor Fang and his wife before they boarded the plane.

Chinese journalists were also present, but if they obtained an interview it has not yet appeared in the Chinese media. The Chinese public was told of Peking's decision in a brief television news item, but no hint of its importance was given.

The British and American public have fared only slightly better. The inscrutability of the Foreign Office probably stems from the fear that anything it says could jeopardise the first real chance for a year to patch up relations with China. The visit that Francis Maude, Minister of State at the Foreign Office, is to make to Peking on July 24-27 is considered to be exceptionally important.

Kaunda's forces storm the campus

From JAN RAATH IN LUSAKA

ZAMBIA security forces stormed the campus of the University of Zambia here early yesterday, firing live and blank ammunition, according to students, before closing the institution to stifle unrest. One student was reported shot in the arm and 28 student leaders were said to have been beaten and detained.

Students said soldiers, paramilitary troops and police arrived at 3 am and surrounded the residences, but only attempted to breach them at sunrise. They said security forces kicked in doors and windows and fired ammunition before herding the students on to the lawns.

At midday, watched by soldiers in full battle dress, students streamed out of the campus gates which bore the daubed slogan "Kaunda the child killer". Buses ferried hundreds more to the city's termini for dispersal to their homes all over the country. "We don't want (President) Kaunda any more," said one student. "He is a dictator."

What remains of the student movement at the university, banned since 1986, has been the only recognisable leadership of the anti-government violence that erupted on Monday after heavy food price increases. No clear estimates of how many have died, were injured or arrested have emerged since security forces finally quelled the unrest.

Sources at Lusaka University's Teaching Hospital reported 43 bodies, while police in the Copperbelt said three people had been shot, but observers believe the number may be double.

BRUSSELS NOTEBOOK by Michael Binyon

Strikes, traffic jams — but food adds spice to Europe's capital



Groomed: passengers whose flights were cancelled

Waiting with the throng of London. There will have to be some big changes.

The strike position is not much better in town. Belgian unions, faced with sackings and cuts, are in a particularly confrontational mood this summer. The miners are the most violent, with a tendency to smash things during demonstrations. The farmers regularly dump manure on the streets of Brussels or bring in machinery to bottle up the traffic. The teachers have also been out in force, week after week.

The police take no chances. Helmeted and shielded, their hips bulging with guns and clubs, they virtually seal off the city centre. Vans of waiting police and barbed-wire barricades stretch all around the commission's beleaguered headquarters. Pedestrians pick their way through defences reminiscent of the "green line" in Beirut or Nicosia. Few take chances. A passer-by was fatally shot by a rioter's bullet during a demo some weeks ago when the police opened fire. And a recent statement by the prime minister saying the police forces were inept and incompetent has hardly added to public confidence.

Another crash. There are about two a month on the corner outside the Times office — fairly normal for most Brussels junctions. The problem is the notorious "priority to the right" rule. Anyone coming in from the right sweeps insouciantly into

possible fourth offshore airport for London. There will have to be some big changes.

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Another crash. There are about two a month on the corner outside the Times office — fairly normal for most Brussels junctions. The problem is the notorious "priority to the right" rule. Anyone coming in from the right sweeps insouciantly into

the main road, confident that the law is on his side and that those coming along must jam on the brakes. Not all do. Consequently Brussels has something of a poor reputation among foreign drivers, who account for almost a third of the residents here.

Matters are not helped by the fact that driving licences were introduced only in 1967, and the quaint narrow streets of central Brussels are ill-suited to impatient taxi drivers. Debate on whether to change the rule, as most other countries already have, is perennial. But how else would anyone get out of the side streets?

Such grumbles have not stopped the huge foreign influx steadily accelerating. House and office prices have soared as Swedes, awash with cash after a change in the tax laws at home, buy up Brussels property with a clear view to having a toe hold in Europe, even if Sweden is not yet an EC member. The reaction has set in. "Brussels is not for sale," say notices plastered in the windows of buildings that may be snapped up. "Down with exploitative landlords" shout the slogans on walls and under bridges.

But a house or office is only half the battle to setting up in Europe's capital. The real challenge is to get a telephone. A six-month waiting list was the latest government estimate. Private enterprise has been called in to help and, with all those quaint cobble pavements to dig up, the

crash programme to catch up is causing quite a mess.

Now some nice words, since Belgium is acutely sensitive to criticism. (A recent hard-hitting article on the Belgian economy in *The Wall Street Journal* drew an outraged front-page response in the stately *Le Soir*. There were even questions in parliament hinting at dark American conspiracies to do the economy down.) Brussels is still the secret gastronomic capital of the world. The city has more good restaurants per square mile than any other city, including Paris.

Or are the restaurants all full of Eurocrats, who, contrary to myth, are immensely hard-working and few on the ground. (Edward Heath once pointed out that the same number of officials administer the Community, with 320 million people, as are needed to run the city of Edinburgh.) Culture is also thick on the ground. More than 20 cinemas show films in English. Ballet, opera and rock music abound. The Brueghels in the Museum of Ancient Art, admission free, are stunning. And you can watch *Neighbours* every night because Brussels gets both BBC1 and BBC2 on cable, along with 14 other television stations from every neighbouring country — a choice of the World Cup in five different languages.

Altogether, an agreeable place to live — if you can ever manage to fly here.

German currency union

Factory closures loom for 'ghost towns' of future

FROM ANNE MCELVOY AND WOLFGANG MÜNCHAU IN EAST BERLIN

ON THE East German 50-mark note, now entering its final hours as legal tender along with the rest of the national currency, there is a picture of a factory with chimneys belching smoke, intended to suggest a future of economic if not ecological prosperity under socialism.

The antiquated metal drum factory in the grimy East Berlin suburb of Oberschöneweide bears a startling resemblance to the scene.

The workers joke you can buy the whole factory for 50 marks, so low is its productivity dogged by years of under-investment and outdated equipment.

It is easy to pick off the factories already condemned to closure after currency union tomorrow. In Oberschöneweide someone has scrawled "Zero chance" and "Rubble"

on the wall. There was no one who wanted to talk about the plant's survival chances, said the porter. He added that the management was probably "too depressed".

In the industrial ring around Leipzig the story is repeated a hundred times. In the bright communities of Bitterfeld, Buna and Leuna they already know their fate — the government has announced a massive closure programme, justifiable on ecological grounds alone. The effects of Western competition will do the rest.

These are the ghost towns of five years time, said Hannes Müller of the Leuna Citizen's Forum. "It is already a case of get out while you can."

Even those factories with competitive products are ill-prepared to compete with the marketing and packaging cul-

ture of the West. Added to this, East German buying habits are now, according to Christina Boesche, of the trade ministry, "completely orientated towards the West German market".

Unemployment in East Germany will rise to 800,000, or around 9 per cent of the workforce, by the end of the year, say the West German banks and think tanks — a respectable figure by Western standards. Envious French financiers are in no doubt that reunification will lead to a stronger German economy.

But the East Germans are sceptical. Their economists predict unemployment up to four million, almost half the workforce. The fact is that nobody knows for sure what happens when an East European economy is opened to direct Western competition.

Inflation is also a looming threat. It largely depends on how East Germans will spend their marks. The West German Bundesbank is optimistic that East Germans will soon revert to saving habits as common in the West. But after 40 years of shortages, queues, and forced savings, they may develop a sudden thirst for spending. The greedy 1980s may be out of fashion in the West but that decade took a different turn in the East.

To some degree it has already done so. Secondhand car dealers near the border could testify to that. In many cases stocks have been cleared out. East Germans now have to travel as far as Frankfurt to get hold of coveted BMWs and Volkswagens. Demand has already pushed up prices.

In the short term, it seems clear, East Germany's national product will shrink, while East Germans will spend their money on Western goods. There will be more money chasing fewer goods.

Until the wave of panic-buying struck last week, even the best quality East German products, such as yoghurt and ice cream, were ignored in favour of more expensive and often inferior West German versions. A letter in this week's *Bauernecho*, a farming newspaper, recounts the tale of a Mecklenburg village which cannot shift its free-range eggs because inhabitants are driving 20 miles to the next town to buy battery eggs from the West.

With only a minority of East German enterprises facing a secure future after next week, the workforce is unsettled, the management undertrained, and the unions enjoying their first upswing since their collapse in disgrace last November.

In East Berlin, a strike by 3,000 refuse collectors has left piles of rubbish outside factories and shops. The collectors have also besieged the townhall with 200 lorries, and 500 workers are picketing the building in shifts.

The unrest is threatening to spread throughout municipal services. The city transport system will be hit by a one-day strike on Monday and the council's speaker, Klaus Hettel, has warned of a "wave of strikes" in July because of differences in salaries and working conditions.

East Berlin has been the first to suffer from the new discontent because of its proximity to the West. It is increasingly difficult to convince an East Berlin binman that he should have half the salary of his colleague in the next street. The more the city grows back together, the more the inequalities between East and West rankle.

What is fermenting in East Berlin now is guaranteed to spread to the rest of the republic in the coming months already being predicted as a *heisser Herbst* — a long hot autumn.

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Leading article, page 13
Final turnout, page 31
Saturday Review, page 10

The carnival is over as Big Top faces collapse

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT IN EAST BERLIN

IN A rural suburb between East Berlin and the Polish border, the camels sat solemnly in the sun yesterday, the zebras were waiting to be fed and the bears were asleep.

The animals were noticeably more content than the 160 members of the East German State Circus, facing imminent collapse when its state subsidy is withdrawn on Monday.

Its director, Hartmut Schulz, sat in his caravan office and watched off frequent visits by angry performers and animal keepers demanding their long overdue salaries.

The circus, founded by the famous German ringmaster Jakob Busch in 1922 and made a state enterprise in 1953, had to retire to its winter quarters last month after playing only 13 of its 52 summer tour venues.

"The people just stopped coming overnight as soon as currency union was announced," said Herr Schulz. "Everyone started saving their money and the circus was the first thing they decided to do without."

The problem is familiar to

theatres and concert halls throughout the country. The East German cultural scene, formerly an oasis of lively thought in the desert of Erich Honecker's socialism, is now facing mass indifference as the population concentrates on acquiring cars, video recorders and holidays in the sun.

"The circus was a big event in East German life. It was the highlight of the year in small towns. Now that people can pop over to West Germany for the weekend, they think we are old-fashioned," said Herr Busch dejectedly.

The circus had one million visitors last year but was playing to half-empty arenas by the beginning of last month.

The morale of the performers fell and 30 left the circus without warning. Army conscripts had to be called in to do technical work and feed the animals.

Many of the employees

have been on the road for decades and the outfit boasted a spirit of internationalism which Herr Honecker could only dream of. The five clown troupe is made up of Cubans, Bulgarians, and a Soviet, accompanied by a 10-man orchestra that is Polish.

"We are probably one of the only organisations who can say with our hands on our heart that it was better under Erich," said Herr Busch. The state provided an 11 million mark (£3.8 million) subsidy and then left the circus well alone.

None of the former politburo members ever attended the state circus.

The last prominent visitor was the headline leader Walter Ulbricht in the fifties and even he had to be persuaded to sully his dignity by a guest — the revolutionary Vietnamese leader Ho Chi Minh.

The circus has been offered a final two-week slot in East Berlin later this month and one week in West Berlin.

"We will play as never before," said Herr Schulz. "Everybody knows it is our last chance. Even the camels."

Honecker faces murder trial

FROM ANNE MCELVOY IN EAST BERLIN

ERICH Honecker, the former East German leader, is to face murder charges relating to the deaths of East Germans killed trying to escape from the country under his regime, it was announced yesterday.

The acting East German public prosecutor, Günter Seidel, said that the charges were based on the "shoot to kill" orders issued by Herr Honecker in his capacity as president of the council of defence after the building of the Berlin Wall in 1961.

Further charges are to be brought against him relating to the automatic shooting

devices and mines which were placed along the so-called "death strip" between East and West Germany.

The move comes after growing criticism of the East German legal authorities who have not yet succeeded in bringing any of the former Politburo members to trial. Treason charges against Herr Honecker and his leading aides were dropped.

An attempt by the West German public prosecutor to secure the trial of Herr Honecker on charges relating to the capture of eight Red Army Faction terrorists harboured

by the regime appears to have failed.

Herr Seidel said that charges would also be brought against those border guards who could be proved to have killed escapees on the border.

Legal experts in both Germanies believe that such prosecutions would, however, be subject to extensive evidence of mitigating circumstance, and the fact that the border troops were in danger of being shot themselves if they did not fulfil the order to shoot.

Berlin price fears spur run on shops

FROM GILBERT STEICHEN IN EAST BERLIN

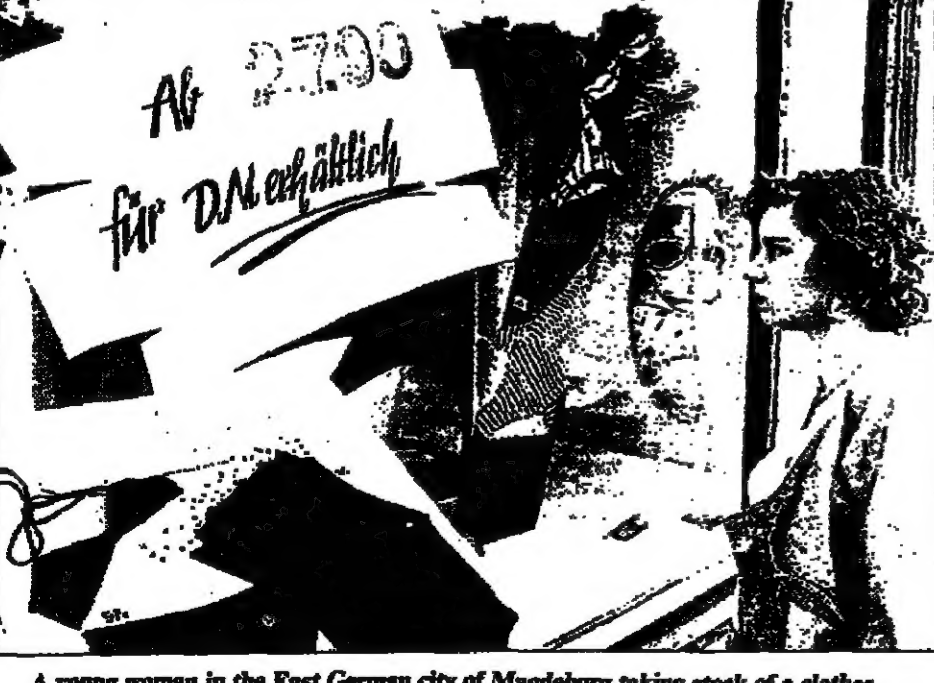
AT THE Kaufhalle market in the bustling Leipzigerstrasse, Renate Wiese dodges hundreds of other shoppers as she looks in vain for fresh meat, toilet paper and milk. Fearful of price increases that will follow currency union East Germans have been stocking up on cheap staples in droves. Meat and milk are scarce; toilet paper impossible to find.

"This is insane," she says, adding that she will be forced again to trudge over to West Berlin to finish her day's shopping. Half the store is already cordoned off and is being remodelled to accommodate West German products that will be brought in over the weekend. Slick advertisements already dangle from the ceiling.

Hoarding has emptied many stores of durable goods, while others have refused deliveries of East German products spurned by consumers to avoid being added with large inventories. Many stores are already closed for renovation, to reopen next week brimming with new Western goods.

Frau Wiese found that a speciality food shop near by has already made the transition. Workers have finished putting up new signs outside to tout the store's new Western ownership. Inside, the store is stocked with West German butter, Danish cheese and French cognac. "The only East German products here are a few spices and sauces," Frau Wiese says, pointing to a small display behind a counter piled high with West German coffee.

While a recent poll indicates



A young woman in the East German city of Magdeburg taking stock of a clothes retailer's announcement that it will sell its wares from Monday in Deutschmarks

that the majority of East Germans welcome the change, there is widespread anxiety over soaring costs and the spectre of unemployment. "It's all going too fast," said a woman shopper, aged 75, on Alexanderplatz, East Berlin's teeming market square. "I've almost had enough. First the depression, then the ruin after the war, the socialist catastrophe, and now this." Many pensioners fear they won't be able to keep up with the coming price increases.

Frau Wiese says she has been trying all week to organise enough supplies to prepare her small pub for the transition into a free market. She takes over sole management of the pub on Sunday

aged 27, from North Vietnam. Right-wing extremist thugs recently roamed the neighbourhood threatening and beating residents. There are 85,000 foreign workers in East Germany, invited to work on contract by the nation's ousted communist government. As unemployment has risen in recent months, many foreign workers have become the targets of growing xenophobic nationalism.

Many fear they will be sent back, or that their wages will not support them under the new system. "These days we just go to work and come straight home," said another Vietnamese worker. "We don't go out on the streets anymore at night."



Square bashers: The Marching Tigers, a high school band from Wisconsin, posing in front of St Basil Cathedral in Red Square after parading in the streets

Soviet miners threaten to stage political strike

FROM NICHOLAS BEESTON IN MOSCOW

MILITANT mine workers in the Ukraine have voted for a one-day stoppage next month in a move which threatens to spread across to all the main collieries in the Soviet Union.

The decision was taken late on Thursday, when representatives of 25 of the 30 mining communities in the Donetsk coal region voted in favour of closing the pits on July 11. The stoppage is likely to become a key test of the government's authority, particularly since the miners have appealed to workers in other industries to join them.

Last summer 200,000 miners from the Ukraine to the Urals and Siberia brought coal production to a standstill over their demands for better pay and working conditions.

This time, however, the miners, who belong to unofficial unions, sent a far more political message to the Kremlin when they listed among their grievances the continued role of the Communist party in the operations of the interior ministry, the prosecutor's office and judiciary, the KGB, armed forces and education. They also called for the nationalisation of property owned by the party and demanded reforms in the official trade union.

"We have already received news that mine workers in Vorkuta, Kuzbass and Karaganda have taken similar decisions to strike," Aleksandr Kolomyitsev, the co-chairman of the Donetsk strike committee, said.

"I am convinced that the strike will be held. In addition, Donetsk transport workers are

preparing for their own strike. They will probably join us on July 11," he said.

Miners had earlier complained that promises made after their stoppages last year to increase supplies of food and goods, improve mine safety and to give workers a greater role in setting prices and production rates had not been met.

News of the strike call could not have come at a worse time for President Gorbachev, both because of the problems he faces pushing through his reform programme at next week's party conference, and because the once docile official trade union body has begun flexing its own muscles.

Gennadi Yanayev, the leader of the official Soviet trade union congress, threatened yesterday to call out millions of his members on a general strike unless legislation is approved in the autumn to protect workers from the effects of free market reforms.

Mr Yanayev warned that, if the transition to a free market was mishandled, 12 million people would be out of work. He put the current figure at around two million, most of them in depressed areas of Central Asia.

In supporting the principles of the free market as the only solution to the state of the economy, Mr Yanayev almost certainly struck a chord with most of the workforce, who desperately want Western goods and services but are terrified of price rises, lay-offs and poverty.

"Out of the 1,600 essential goods supplied by the govern-

ment, 1,500 are in short supply," he said. "If prices rise two or three times, as they are expected to do, you can imagine what will happen to the 60 per cent of the population who are close to the poverty line."

He went on to demand that a referendum be held throughout the Soviet Union to seek a mandate for economic reform. He added that proposed aid from Europe and America should be accepted only if it were offered unconditionally.

Mr Yanayev told reporters that his organisation had introduced 14 bills to be brought before the Supreme Soviet in the next session this autumn to cushion the average worker from the effects of the transition. The provisions include social security benefits, a minimum wage, index-linked wage increases, food subsidies and a trade union bill of rights.

"We are prepared to resort to any action, including extreme action, and that means a strike," said Mr Yanayev, whose appointment to the leadership this year has been characterised by his tough language and direct manner, more in the mould of a traditional Western union organiser.

"We hope we will arrive at an agreement with the Supreme Soviet to avoid a massive strike because any spiralling of strikes may result in terrible economic consequences," he said.

His outburst came three days before the planned start of the Soviet Communist party congress, where the pace of economic reform will be a key issue.

Vilnius decision could be lifeline for Gorbachev

FROM ANATOL LIEVEN IN VILNIUS

PRESIDENT Landsbergis of Lithuania's decision openly to back the proposal to freeze the republic's declaration of independence for 100 days, originally made by Kazimieras Prunskiene, the prime minister, apparently reflects a desire to present President Gorbachev with a political success just before the important Soviet Communist party congress beginning on Monday.

Deputies hope the decision will bring an immediate lifting of Soviet economic sanctions, since Lithuania is in urgent need of oil supplies to bring in its harvest next month.

Official sources say that more than 40 per cent of Lithuanian industry has been affected by the sanctions, and 5.6 per cent of workers are unemployed.

The beginning of a public change of heart by Mrs Prunskiene on the suspension of the declaration of independence came after her visits to North America and Western Europe in April and May. Western leaders urged on her the need for compromise, and the dangers of helping to undermine Mr Gorbachev's position.

Several deputies in yesterday's debate pressed on the leadership the need to coordinate moves with those of Latvia and Estonia. Mr Landsbergis and Mrs Prunskiene were expected to leave for Tallinn, the Estonian capital, last night for consultation with the leaders of the other Baltic republics.

Estonia and Latvia have been awaiting the outcome of Lithuania's declaration of independence before themselves taking further steps. Their parliaments are not expected to suspend their more limited declarations, but further law-making may be frozen for the time being. It is not yet clear if the three republics will jointly negotiate independence with Moscow.

All three are finding it difficult to restructure their economies to make them more independent of Moscow and to introduce capitalist forms of production. This fact could lead to a new attitude to long-term links with the Soviet Union. In negotiations with Lithuania, Moscow will be urging that it remain in a new and much looser Soviet federation on terms that Lithuania has itself drawn up, but this is strongly opposed by radical nationalists throughout the republic.

Mr Gorbachev's proposal of a "new union treaty", implying some form of Soviet confederation, lies behind his own more conciliatory attitude towards Lithuania. Following the lead of Boris Yeltsin, the Russian Federation's president, all the Soviet republics are now moving towards declaring the supremacy of their laws over those made by the Soviet government.

In view of this, the Soviet Commission on Compliance with the Constitution has announced that it will no longer be bringing cases against republics or institutions for failure to comply with the constitution.

It therefore made little legal sense for Mr Gorbachev to go on demanding that Lithuania should return to the Soviet constitution.

Radicals suspect conservative plot to steer party congress their way

FROM MARY DEJEVSKY IN MOSCOW

PROGRESSIVES in the Moscow Communist party yesterday accused conservatives of plotting the outcome of last week's Russian Communist party congress and warned that they would try to repeat their coup at the Soviet party congress. At the same time, a senior US diplomat said the outlook for President Gorbachev and the reformist wing of the party might not be as gloomy as generally believed.

He emphasized that the policy documents passed by the Russian congress, and the programme and statute to be submitted to the Soviet congress, were centrist, if not radically reformist, in content. He noted Mr Gorbachev's gift for turning adversity to his advantage. He also indicated that the view that the Communist party organizations in the Central Asian republics are predominantly conservative could be out of date.

Mr Gorbachev's concept of a looser federal structure for the Soviet Union and greater economic autonomy for the republics had struck a chord in Central Asia, where feelings ran high about "exploitation" by the centre. Any suggestion that economic order could be imposed on the country by tightening central planning and slowing moves towards Mr Gorbachev's proposed

"federation of sovereign socialist states" would be unwelcome.

The opposite view about the balance of forces prevails in many party organisations in Moscow, however. Vladimir Kuznetsov, a secretary of the Moscow city party organisation, told journalists yesterday that conservatives had been plotting their moves since autumn last year, when a meeting of senior party officials had met in Zvenigorod near Moscow to begin drafting the congress documents.

The reformist direction of that meeting, which laid the foundation for the new party policy document and statute, had been condemned by several influential conservatives who had resolved to reverse it. Mr Kuznetsov pointed out the security precautions taken at last week's Russian congress and the number of KGB personnel in evidence, suggesting they were a "symbolic" show of strength.

The Russian congress has opened up painful divisions in the Moscow party organisation and between the Moscow party and the centre. Yuri Prokofyev, the Moscow first secretary, who is regarded as a Gorbachev ally, was taken to task for not speaking out for the reformists. This had been deemed a "tactical error", Mr

Kuznetsov said. Mr Prokofyev, who was a delegate to the congress, chaired the editorial commission, the group that completes the transcripts and documents.

The Moscow party organisation has also sent a signal to the top leadership, including Mr Gorbachev, that it was less than impressed by their performance. Each area recommends a number of its congress delegates for membership of the party Central Committee and membership of central commissions.

In the Moscow list, which was made public yesterday, the names of Mr Gorbachev, Nikolai Ryzhkov, the prime minister, Aleksandr Yakovlev, the Central Committee commission chairman for international policy, and Eduard Shevardnadze, the foreign minister — all of whom were elected congress delegates from Moscow party organisations — were conspicuously absent. Mr Kuznetsov said yesterday that they could be included later, after they had reported satisfactorily to the congress on their work.

Despite unhappiness in Moscow party organisations, particularly those dominated by intellectuals, about the new Russian party, there is disagreement about how to proceed. Party members in Soviet

radio and television, the Novosti press agency and *Literaturnaya Gazeta* have voted to halt or suspend payment of their party dues and are calling for the transformation of last week's party conference into a founding congress of the new party to be rejected as illegitimate.

Grigori Chernilo, a senior editor of the communist party journal *Kommunist* said, however, that reformists should stay in the party through the congress and put pressure on their delegates to ensure that proceedings went their way.

The Russian Communist party, he said, has been born. "We may not like its character, it may have been artificially conceived and it may be illegitimate, but it exists and we shall have to try and make the best of it." Once the Soviet party congress was over, he said, reformists should try to regain the initiative when the Russian congress reconvened to decide its leadership structure and appointments.

The debate about the legitimacy and desirability of the Russian communist party in its current form has been led by party organisations in the cities of Moscow, Leningrad and Sverdlovsk, where the party and local government are dominated by reformers.

Nato decision on first of nuclear warheads

FROM MICHAEL BERRY

MANFRED Wörner, NATO's secretary-general, yesterday dismissed reports that the alliance had agreed to return the option of first use of nuclear weapons to member states.

Speaking to reporters after meeting Gen. J. H. Brown, the NATO secretary-general, Mr Wörner said: "We have started a comprehensive review of the nuclear strategy of NATO at the summit. That answers your question."

NATO leaders will meet in London on Wednesday and Thursday to discuss the future of the alliance and the possibility of a new nuclear strategy, which is the subject of a NATO summit in London on July 1.

Toxic fuel linked to seal deaths

Olo - As reported by the Arctic Council, the seal deaths around the Soviet coast since mid-April have been caused by toxic fuel.

Seal deaths around the Soviet coast since mid-April have been caused by toxic fuel, according to a report by the Arctic Council. The report says that the deaths are linked to the use of toxic fuel in the Arctic region. The report also says that the deaths are linked to the use of toxic fuel in the Arctic region.

Havel defiant

Prague - President Havel

Prague - President Havel yesterday defiantly rejected claims that his government was planning to introduce a new constitution. He said that the government was committed to the current constitution and would not be introducing any changes.

Saddam denial

Washington - President

Washington - President Bush yesterday denied reports that the United States was planning to launch a military campaign against Iraq. He said that the United States was committed to a peaceful resolution of the crisis in the Gulf.

Bodies found

Cebu - Filipino

Cebu - Filipino police yesterday found the bodies of two men who had been missing for several days. The bodies were found in a river near the city of Cebu.

Aids spreads

Geneva - More than

Geneva - More than 100 cases of AIDS have been reported in the city of Geneva, according to a report by the World Health Organization. The report says that the cases are linked to the use of contaminated blood products.

Shuttle leak

Cape Canaveral - NASA

Cape Canaveral - NASA yesterday announced that a shuttle launch had been delayed due to a leak in the shuttle's external tank. The launch is now scheduled for next week.

Kenya charges

Nairobi - Three

Nairobi - Three Kenyan judges yesterday charged with the task of investigating the deaths of three people who were killed during a recent election. The judges are expected to report back to the government by the end of the month.

Hungary special reform time

From ERNEST BECK IN BUDAPEST

THE Hungarian government is facing growing pressure from international financial institutions to speed up economic reform. Yesterday, the government announced that it was planning to introduce a new constitution, which would give the government more power to control the economy.

Nato divided on first use of nuclear warheads

From MICHAEL BINYON IN BRUSSELS

MANFRED Wörner, Nato's secretary-general, yesterday dismissed reports that the alliance had agreed to retain the option of first use of nuclear weapons as part of its broad strategy review.

Speaking to reporters after meeting Geza Jeszenszky, the Hungarian foreign minister, he said: "We have started a comprehensive review. You will have the first indications at the summit. That answers your questions."

Nato leaders will meet in London on Wednesday and Thursday to consider the future of the alliance and to conduct a thorough review of the long-standing doctrine, which is the right to use nuclear weapons first in a conflict — a key element in Nato's flexible response strategy.

The United States has reportedly been pressing its

allies to retain this policy. But Belgium and Denmark and some others have publicly called for a change. The Soviet Union has also criticised the first-use option as an aggressive policy, and several European politicians have said the changes in Eastern Europe have made it outdated.

The Washington Post, citing Bush administration officials, said the alliance would not agree to a "no first use" of nuclear weapons. "No government official is saying we should look at the pros and cons" on nuclear policy, they were quoted as saying.

Herr Wörner insisted yesterday that Nato would keep nuclear weapons in Europe to guarantee peace. "We do not want to make Europe safe for conventional war," he said.

He did not deny that moves were afoot for next week's summit to endorse a formal non-aggression pact between Nato and the Warsaw Pact. But he said: "Personally I would prefer a declaration which is clearly based on member nations."

Referring to the likely outcome of the summit, he added: "I think you will get a very clear message about our peaceful intentions... about the non-aggressive character of our alliance."

Nato officials suggested yesterday that the alliance would not want to give official bloc recognition to the pact, which may now be breaking up.

Mr Jeszenszky, asked yesterday about Hungary's recent announcement that it was seeking to leave the Warsaw Pact, was cautious about suggestions that it might want to join Nato instead. "Hungary does not want to make the European security situation less stable than it is today. Even if it were possible politically to go about joining Nato, it would not be conducive to security right now."

Mark Eyskens, the Belgian foreign minister, yesterday called for a pan-European peacekeeping force, drawing troops from both Nato and the Warsaw Pact.

He will put his proposal for a mobile, multinational force, composed mainly of soldiers from the smaller countries of Europe, to the Nato summit. This "international fire brigade" would be used mainly to counter the threat of rising local nationalism and could be used to intervene in ethnic or national conflicts, such as Northern Ireland.

Nato sources were cautious about the idea, outlined in an interview with *The European*. They suggested it faced practical difficulties, and European states would reject outside military intervention in their domestic affairs.

The Eyskens proposal builds on suggestions, voiced among others by Douglas Hurd, the foreign secretary, at the last Nato summit, that the alliance ought to do something to ensure that the collapse of communist authority does not lead to a new Balkanisation and rising tide of long-suppressed nationalism in Eastern Europe.

Mr Hurd suggested the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe might set up a rapid-response unit to deal with such problems.

Mr Eyskens said his proposed European force would be guaranteed by the superpowers and would be more effective than the use of United Nations troops, whose efforts were thwarted by the cold war. He said the new force could be used to intervene in such disputes as the linguistic rows between the Walloon and Flemish communities in Belgium.



Commonwealth partners: the undeclared war between the Commonwealth Secretariat and Downing Street is probably over after five years of dispute about the government's policy on South Africa (Andrew McEwen writes). Chief Emeka Anyanwu of Nigeria, above left with Sir Shridath Ramphal, the Commonwealth Secretary-General for 15 years whom he yesterday succeeded, is just as tough on apartheid as his predecessor but has a

more diplomatic style. He supports sanctions but wants to see the Commonwealth become more involved in helping negotiations between black and white South Africans. Known in the secretariat as "The Chief", he is the eldest son of an Ibo leader from eastern Nigeria and has served as Sir Shridath's deputy for the past six years. His reputation for discretion, even mildness, contrasts with his former boss's flair for publicity. Sir

Shridath was called cocky and self-promoting by some British observers, but many poorer governments saw him as a champion of Third World causes. He believes that, the more he stood out on issues of principle, the more people attacked him. Both friends and enemies hold him responsible for giving the secretariat a more political character, but whether he harmed it or put it on the map is a matter that will be debated for years.

Soviet Jews bring serious housing problem in Israel

From OUR CORRESPONDENT IN JERUSALEM

A WAVE of Soviet Jewish immigrants streaming into Israel have caused a serious housing problem, not just for themselves but for Israelis.

Half a dozen tent cities have sprung up from Carmel in the north to Beersheba in the south, all full of young Israeli couples unable to find flats or evicted by landlords who think they can get better money from the government-subsidised Soviet immigrants.

In the Tel Aviv suburb of Rhison Lezion yesterday municipal officials tried to have 15 families and their tents removed from a park. But a last-minute reprieve by the municipal council will let the protesters stay, if only for another week.

Raymond Asoulin, one of the Israelis living in a tent in Rhison Lezion, said he and his wife could not afford the rent of more than £175 a month that local landlords have begun to demand. "Aliya (emigration) is a blessing for Israel," he said. "We are in favour of it, but it should not hurt us."

Israeli officials are concerned about the small but growing protest movement by young Israelis because they need public support to help house, educate and find jobs for the big inflow of Soviet

Jews. Since the Soviet Union relaxed exit policies in spring last year, more than 61,000 Soviet Jews have arrived in Israel.

Uri Shoshani, the director of engineering and planning in the housing ministry, estimates that, at the current arrival rate of 10,000 a month, the newcomers will by December have filled all existing rented accommodation as well as unused rooms in hotels and spaces in camping grounds.

A crash home-building programme has not yet started, and efforts by Ariel Sharon, the housing minister, to get emergency regulations passed to speed up the process have run into resistance. The main argument appears to be that local contractors do not want Mr Sharon to go ahead with plans to import prefabricated units to house the immigrants.

In a recent speech Mr Sharon estimated that, starting in December, "we will need 7,000 new apartments every month. It is not the time to blame somebody for not starting earlier. We have to look forward as to how to solve it."

About twenty families have moved into tents outside parliament in Jerusalem to demand that the government intervene.

Toxic fuel linked to seal deaths

Oslo — An ecological disaster around the Soviet port of Archangel, just south of the Arctic Circle, may have been caused by the dumping of toxic rocket fuel after a submarine accident, a Norwegian newspaper reported yesterday (*Tony Samstag* writes).

Dead seals and other marine life have been washed up on the shores of the White Sea since mid-April, and fish have been absent from normally productive waters. Quoting a Soviet embassy spokesman in Oslo and an *Aftenposten* report, *Aftenposten* said the fuel was dumped last December off the naval base at Severodvinsk.

Havel defiant

Prague — President Havel renominated a new Czechoslovak cabinet sworn in two days ago after parliament said that its inauguration was unconstitutional. (*Reuters*)

Saddam denial

Washington — President Saddam Hussein of Iraq told ABC television that his country did not have nuclear weapons, but declined to say whether its scientists were working on such technology. (*Reuters*)

Bodies found

Colombo — Fourteen decomposed bodies of Sri Lankan policemen abducted and shot dead by Tamil separatists have been found in a pit, security sources said. (*Reuters*)

Aids spreads

Geneva — More than 3,000 new cases of Aids were officially reported in June, giving a global total of 266,098, the World Health Organisation said. The tiny republic of San Marino, with a population of less than 25,000, reported its first case. (*Reuters*)

Shuttle leak

Cape Canaveral — Nasa, the US space agency, found a leak in the Atlantis space shuttle similar to that which grounded the Columbia and cancelled plans to announce a launch date. (*Reuters*)

Kenya charges

Nairobi — Three Kenyan journalists were charged with publishing alarming reports about alleged deaths of slum dwellers when a Nairobi shanty town was bulldozed last month. (*AFP*)

Hungary speeds up reform timetable

From ERNEST BECK IN BUDAPEST

THE Hungarian government, faced with growing pressure from international financial institutions to speed up economic reform, yesterday unveiled a schedule of wide-ranging measures to transform the stagnant state-controlled economy to a social market based on private enterprise.

Gyorgy Matolcsy, an economic state secretary, said that, although opposition parties had granted the government a four-month honeymoon to prepare its programme, "the international community" and Western investors wanted information now on how the centrally planned economy would be dismantled.

The proposals call for bankruptcy proceedings to be initiated in August against 30 to 35 large debt-ridden state firms, followed by 600 others in a later phase. A further 300 small companies would be

granted a period of grace to restructure before facing insolvency, while company directors, many of whom were appointed simply because of their loyalty to the former communist party, would be forced to "reapportion" for their jobs, in an attempt to weed out the old guard.

About 15 profitable state firms, such as Malev, the Hungarian airline, are selected for share flotations on the new Budapest stock exchange.

The government wants to privatise 30,000 to 40,000 small shops with less than 15 employees, including restaurants, hotels and service-sector suppliers.

It also said it would raise prices on household energy by 30 per cent and on "luxury" goods, including cigarettes, alcohol and petrol by 25 per cent to make up for a 17 billion forint (£147 million) surge in the budget deficit.

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EAST GERMANY REBORN

The dismantling of the East German command economy is approaching its climax. Tomorrow's monetary union with West Germany will officially sanction the adoption of the Deutschmark by the East Germans. The D-mark had, in practice, long ago become the real currency. West Germany is often depicted as some kind of python, eagerly digesting its neighbour. After tomorrow, what is actually happening can no longer be disguised: the irresistible welling-up of legitimate yearnings which only the free market can satisfy. For East Germans, it is 1948, the rebirth of West German capitalism, all over again.

Amid the euphoria, many Germans are wisely urging caution. Like the system of political repression built up by Ulbricht and perfected by Honecker, much of the East German economy remained structurally unaltered from the Nazi period, when it was first subjected to central planning. Hitler's mammoth frozen in a Stalinist Siberia. Lacking the market's spontaneous flow of information, East German managers did not know what to produce. The best firms, such as Zeiss instruments or Meissen porcelain, were starved of the capital they needed to meet demand. These few exceptional enterprises will survive economic union, though doubtless under West German ownership. Most of the rest should fold.

The economic consequences of this bankruptcy will, at least in the medium-term, be beneficial to the majority of East Germans. The short-term social and political consequences are another matter. Bonn is already budgeting for East German unemployment to reach 500,000 within six months, and at least a million within a year, nearly twice the relatively high West German rate. But for prodigious migration to the West, these conservative estimates would already have been exceeded. Such projections assume that able-bodied East Germans will not be content to become parasites on a Western welfare state which guarantees higher living standards than they have ever known before.

Most of the young are ambitious and energetic. But the response of older people, particularly the numerous petty officials, to the trauma of retraining and redeployment is

unpredictable. Their capitalist neighbours are equal to the challenge of economic union. Even if their reshaping of the East German landscape is sensitive, however, it could still lead to the same resentments that were felt by the casualties, both of the first German unification a century ago, and later by those of the Weimar Republic. Even if central bankers can prevent the new German economy from overheating or even exploding, the present boom could be followed by a crash. Even if politicians can prevent the new national self-assurance from threatening the Federal Republic's constitutional stability, there is no denying the consequences for Europe of the shift of Germany's centre of gravity towards the east.

On the eve of this weekend's consummation, the hitherto subdued campaign to remove the capital of Germany to Berlin burst into the open. President Richard von Weizsäcker has thrown his prestige behind the old Reichshauptstadt. While the three main party leaders have avoided this as a federal election issue, the East German electorate's likely participation in that election in December will force the location of the capital to centre stage. The restoration of Berlin to its former glory is the one great symbolic concession which East Germans may still hope to wring from their wealthy compatriots, many of whom despise Bonn.

Chancellor Kohl, still locked in complex negotiations with the Russians over a price for the withdrawal of their garrison, is desperate not to look like a chauvinist. Moscow might misconstrue a stated intention to move the seat of government to the capital of Frederick the Great, Bismarck and Hitler. When he was re-elected last year, Herr von Weizsäcker gave notice that he would not hold back from great matters of state. To Herr Kohl's chagrin, he is now making good his promise.

Germany has passed the point of no return. The future is fraught with dangers and Britons are entitled to watch the resurgent continental colossus with mixed feelings. In a united Germany, however, there will be new fields for the British economy to conquer; and a united Germany will need British friendship more than ever before.

A HEALTHIER SERVICE

Health secretary Kenneth Clarke had the satisfaction yesterday of learning that most of his health service reforms were safe from repeal, whatever happens at the next general election. Labour has finally decided to steal some of his clothes. Robin Cook, his Labour opposite number, may have to pretend otherwise. He made the most of his promise to reverse any opting out by NHS hospitals and end the system for general practitioner budgeting. But he accepts that it is the Clarke version of the NHS, not the pre-Clarke version, which will be his starting point if he ever sits in Mr Clarke's chair.

The opting-out provisions and GP budgeting were never the heart of the matter, otherwise the government would have made them compulsory. Most hospitals were always expected to stay in, at least for some while, and most GPs would continue financing their practices as they do now. Mr Cook is merely sucking up to the doctors, who dislike these proposals in particular. Mr Clarke's primary aim was to make the NHS more efficient, and to end the dominance of doctors over managers. He has every right to succeed.

The bias towards the doctors dates from the deal struck by Aneurin Bevan with the British Medical Association when the NHS began in 1948. Bevan concluded that the only way he could get the medical profession to co-operate was to hand the NHS, in effect, over to them. Now Labour poses as the BMA's friend. The public interest would be served if it proves a false friend, for the doctors, and especially the hospital consultants, must take most of the blame for the inefficiencies with which the NHS is now bedevilled. They have run it, and done so largely to protect their vested interest, claiming that was identical to the interests of the public, their patients. This is a prescription for free society could swallow. Mr Clarke deserves credit for curbing the doctors' power, and making them answerable.

At times Mr Clarke has oversold the radical nature of his reforms, raising fears that he might even frighten the patients at a sensitive

time before the next election. He would be wise now to adopt a more soothing bedside manner, lest he risk disappointing expectations he has roused. The NHS should become a better service, but that cannot happen overnight. Most patients — who are generally ignorant of, and indifferent to, NHS organisation — will notice no great changes. Some hospital waiting lists may start to go down, as needs and resources become better aligned. The taxpayer will get better value for money. But few patients use the NHS widely enough to make comparisons: somebody having to wait three weeks for an operation can hardly be expected to know that without Mr Clarke's reforms, he might have had to wait four.

The essence of the reforms is the introduction of the so-called internal market, by which different elements in the health service are expected to relate to each other as if they were all in the private sector (but without shareholders). Services will be "bought" and "sold," those providing them will compete for business, those not providing them will must look to their performance. Given that no government would dare to privatise the NHS, this is an ingenious stab at the next best thing. Mr Cook may dislike the apparent commercialism of the language of the internal market, but he seems to be prepared to live with the substance.

Mr Clarke took a tactical decision not to give way to critics who demanded experiments and pilot schemes before the reforms were made general. That would have been a safer option, but he is a bold man. If the reforms do not work out quite as sweetly as he hopes, he can always borrow Mr Cook's clothes to the extent of saying that some aspects may need a second look, after the next election. To admit the need for further fine tuning of the reforms would be wiser than to try to spend his way out of trouble at the taxpayers' expense. Meanwhile the BMA has called for another £5 billion for the NHS next year, neatly epitomising its whole attitude and thereby proving how necessary the reforms were.

THE TRAIN NOW VANISHING

There is startling news from British Rail: a spokesman has shyly revealed that several hundred of the trains listed in the comprehensive timetable just published do not exist. Such frankness must disarm criticism. It certainly lends a pleasantly surrealistic element to journey planning.

Robert Louis Stevenson said that to travel hopefully is a better thing than to arrive. So it may be, but he surely did not envisage the traveller never arriving at all. Even if he did, what about the trains in the timetable which not only do not come back but do not even start out? A prize idiot he would feel if he were to sit at Euston all day hoping to demonstrate the art of travelling hopefully, only to sink away as night fell and hire a taxi.

On the other hand, it is well known that the British are at their best in adversity. At a milling crowd at every station, hoping for a train which will bring their loved ones, or at a train which will depart in the general pinch a train which the loved ones were last direction of where the loved ones were last seen, are sure to be offered hastily-compiled timetables, run up by entrepreneurs who have scented a quick killing, like the man who arrives with a bundle of umbrellas soon after it rains. Many a romance will flourish in these exciting hours. In years to come there will be couples telling again how they met: he was trying to get from Brighton to Devizes, she was desperate to go from Llangollen to Scarborough, and they both got on at Luton and fetched up at Carstairs, engaged.

Many a romance will flourish in these exciting hours. In years to come there will be couples telling again how they met: he was trying to get from Brighton to Devizes, she was desperate to go from Llangollen to Scarborough, and they both got on at Luton and fetched up at Carstairs, engaged.

hope of ever seeing their loved ones again might well seek consolation in such a trip, particularly as the tour-guide will be no less mystified than the passengers; sweepstakes on where we are going will be taking place in every carriage. A fiver in 10p pieces is no substitute for the family, but it is still not to be sneezed at.

Whenever the train stops, assuming it does, it will be clear which passengers are the real backbone of England. They will be the ones who get off and bravely start out in quite a different direction, according to where the next train is at least supposed to be going. Messages will abound. There will be cries of: "Do look out for a blue suitcase with a green strap round it — it was supposed to go to Moreton-in-Marsh." Or: "If you get to Bristol Parkway you'll see a short woman with black hair and three children all screaming their heads off."

Meanwhile, of course, BR will not have been idle. At every station there will be officials whose task it will be to enquire of the drivers of any trains that stop where they were thinking of going next. Democracy will surely rear its head. If a majority wants Weston-super-Mare, Weston-super-Mare it will be, though there may be trouble with drivers on their last shift who are looking forward to taking their trains to Ipswich, not least because they live there.

Many a romance will flourish in these exciting hours. In years to come there will be couples telling again how they met: he was trying to get from Brighton to Devizes, she was desperate to go from Llangollen to Scarborough, and they both got on at Luton and fetched up at Carstairs, engaged.

Royal pomp in heart of London

From Rear-Admiral W. J. Graham

Sir, You may well be right (leading article, June 28) that there is a good case for not having all state visits and other ceremonial events in the middle of London. But to use the quite unique occasion of the 90th birthday celebrations of the Queen Mother to make this point is very wide of the mark.

Combining as it did all the British as well as Commonwealth organisations in which the Queen Mother has an interest, and bearing in mind that London has been her principal home — through good times and bad — for most of her life, there is nowhere else that the celebrations could properly have been held.

When the three cheers rent the air yesterday evening on Horseguards Parade, it was the voices of thousands representing the millions who wanted to say "happy birthday," with no caveats whatsoever.

Yours loyally,
WILFRED GRAHAM,
Driscoll, Broughton,
Nr Stockbridge, Hampshire.
June 28.

From Mr R. A. McIvor
Sir, "Modern London likes its royalty," your leader confidently declares. Suffering the chaos caused by indulgences such as yesterday's sycophantic parade in honour of the Queen's mother's forthcoming birthday, I wonder if modern London would agree.

The performance of our EC neighbours demonstrates that the existence or otherwise of a monarchy makes not an ounce of difference to economic success. However, if it is the presence of the royals that brings the fleets of coaches and the armies of tourists to London every year, then I suspect most Londoners would be more than happy to confine them to a suitable location, preferably as far away as possible.

Yours faithfully,
R. A. MCIVOR,
36 Oakdale Road, E18.
June 28.

From Mr Edward Day
Sir, As one who arrived in the area in the early afternoon, to gain a place on the rails to watch the procession, I was most impressed by the enormous variety of the organisations represented, with which the Queen Mother is associated and I am sure the youngsters taking part will never forget the occasion.

London should never forgo this type of ceremonial occasion in the interests of expediency. It is, after all, a demonstration of the fabric of our society which foreign tourists pay millions to experience and serves to emphasise that not all of our youth are football hooligans.

In any case I suspect that many Londoners would infinitely prefer to have this outpouring of national affection for a great lady than to have their city paralysed by the hate and violence of the poll tax demonstrations a few weeks ago.

Yours sincerely,
EDWARD DAY,
Doves Barn, Brighton,
Robertsbridge, East Sussex.

From Mr J. Waddington
Sir, I read with delight your leading article. A staunch royalist, I would encourage more royal occasions taking place in the north of England and Scotland, not only relieving pressure on London, but more important, promoting much-needed publicity to help tourism and resulting trade in these areas.

Yours faithfully,
J. WADDINGTON,
32 Porchfield Square,
St John's Gardens,
Manchester 3.

From Sir Charles Tidbury
Sir, My work yesterday took me to Regate by car in the morning, back to my office in Queen Anne's Gate at lunchtime, followed by a visit to Whitehall. I drove back here last night at 6 p.m. No more traffic hold-ups than on a normal day, and surely not a fair reason to blame our beloved Queen Mother whose birthday celebrations gave such joy to so many yesterday.

Yours etc.,
CHARLES TIDBURY,
Crocker Hill Farm, Forest Lane,
Wickham, Hampshire.
June 28.

From Mr M. Williams
Sir, All of us who live and work for our living in big towns know that traffic congestion can be caused by a great many factors, not least the apparent inability of different services not to dig up the road at the same time in two different places. An accident in one spot in London can cause a three-hour traffic jam.

I think you owe an apology, publicly stated in the paper to the Queen Mother. You forget that the occasion was televised and was seen by millions who derived great enjoyment from watching it.

Yours faithfully,
M. WILLIAMS,
20 Beech View,
Angmering Village, West Sussex.

From Mr Alan Turner
Sir, You suggest that the Queen Mother should parade in the Scottish capital because of her Hibernian associations. I can only assume that this means she is a supporter of the football club.

Yours faithfully,
ALAN TURNER,
Gloucester Hotel,
10 Gloucester Place,
Edinburgh 3.

Knock-on effect of council reform

From Mr John A. Spence

Sir, The campaign by the Association of District Councils ("Call to end county councils", report, June 25) would certainly lead to the demise of the present district councils. If a single tier of local government were to be created it would demand much larger unitary authorities than the present districts.

Whether it would see the end of county councils is another matter; they would appear to be a convenient size to administer all local services. Such a solution would avoid any need for the suggested extension of the unsatisfactory joint board system, and the counties would continue to run their other main services, such as social services, without the need for reorganisation.

The main deterrent to local government reform has always been its cost — the cost of redundancies, relocation of staff, and the setting up of reorganised services. The cost of the switch to unitary authorities by change to both county and district authorities would be prohibitive.

It is recognised that the districts are too small to run many services and as there are no services which could not be more efficiently run by county councils, the end of the districts would seem to be the only answer and a sensible outcome to the Association of District Councils' campaign.

Yours etc.,
JOHN A. SPENCE
(Chairman, Finance Group),
Kent County Council,
County Hall,
Maidstone, Kent.
June 26.

From Mr R. W. Dixon Smith
Sir, Three structural reorganisations of local government in the last 35 years have taken place. Each cost the electorate and

taxpayer a great deal of money. New and enlarged administrations were created, with a demand for new and improved standards of accommodation.

Each reorganisation took much time and creative energy in local authorities away from their main function, which is to provide services to the community at large. Each has therefore had a direct financial cost and an indirect cost affecting the services provided.

Further structural reorganisation will produce similar effects. The electorate would be wise to question closely the proponents of change, be it at national or at local level, since their proposals have very little to do with the real problems which local government faces — services, the cost of those services, and how that cost should be met. Structural reorganisation is a distraction from those problems advanced by people who do not wish to face the very real difficulties in which local government is enmeshed.

The county councils have a case based on appropriate structure and efficient service provision. County government has existed in this country in one form or another for many centuries; it is adaptable and has stood the test of time.

Those who would change the structure must show that their proposals will serve better the people of this country. Experience of reorganisations undertaken during my time in local government suggests that structural reorganisation does nothing to help the ordinary person.

Yours faithfully,
BILL DIXON SMITH
(Leader, Conservative Group),
Association of County Councils,
Eaton House,
66a Eaton Square, SW1.
June 27.

'Fast-track' judges

From Mr J. G. Bradshaw

Sir, Your leading article (June 25) on judicial appointments rightly rejects the path of positive discrimination, which has been tried and failed in various fields because of the obvious unfairness and resentment to which it gives rise.

What I find extraordinary is the reasoning of Tony Holland, president-elect of the Law Society, who is stated (report, June 25) to want "a kind of 'fast track' for women and black candidates" — this on the ground that they "have to spend so many years as an assistant recorder and then as a recorder," which is what everybody else has to do.

I read with mounting astonishment also the wish of the president-elect to have "judges who have never been near a court" in the context of denigrating the criminal Bar as "Old Bailey hacks" — a quite inexplicable insult to an able and talented body of advocates.

I suggest that the present system of judicial appointment does not

need any more committees or commissions.

Yours faithfully,
JAMES G. BRADSHAW,
Manor House, Welburn, York.

From Miss S. Strother Smith
Sir, Mr Tony Holland's idea is to introduce some form of "fast track" for women and ethnic-minority lawyers — surely positive discrimination of the sexual and racial sort. There are very obvious reasons for working one's way up the judicial ladder and judges must not and should never be seen as political animals.

To put aside normal considerations for the appointment of a judge in order to reach a "higher political objective", i.e., that of the appointment of minority judges, defeats the whole object of our presently democratic English legal system.

In due course we shall see far more women continuing up and indeed reaching the top of the judicial ladder, but judicial appointments must never be made for political reasons.

Yours faithfully,
SHELAGH STROTHER SMITH,
44 Morley Road,
Twickenham, Middlesex.

Cosmetic labels

From Dr I. R. White

Sir, Up to 3 per cent of the adult population in Europe are allergic to one or more ingredients in the products they use. The detective work involved by dermatologists in the identification of these ingredients can incur weeks of waiting, prolonging discomfort, distress and treatment at enormous cost in both human and economic terms. Thereafter, patients are warned that, to avoid further adverse reaction, they will have to enquire regularly of manufacturers, to ascertain if products contain the identified allergen as formulations may change without notice.

Since 1977 products sold on the North American market have declared their full qualitative composition. Listing ingredients has proved to be beneficial for consumer and physician and the nomenclature used by the Americans is used widely by dermatolo-

gists and the manufacturing industry throughout Europe for reference purposes.

We find it unacceptable that few manufacturers can or will provide the customer in the UK and Europe with this labelling service. There is no doubt that withholding this information is producing significant disease throughout the EC.

Partial labelling is not acceptable. Ingredient coding, as introduced for foodstuffs, is not acceptable either. Let us with our European partners seek to remedy this anomaly now, by introducing full ingredient labelling on cosmetics, toiletries, skin medications, skin care and beauty products.

Yours faithfully,
I. R. WHITE (Chairman),
British Contact Dermatitis Group,
British Association of Dermatologists,
3 St Andrew's Place,
Regent's Park, NW1.
June 21.

Fire at Dropmore

From Mr William A. Moffett

Sir, The fire that badly damaged Dropmore Lodge (report and photograph, June 23) consumed more than simply another of the houses belonging to Mr Mohammed Mahdi al-Tajir. It erased the restoration efforts of the late Lord Kemsley who had reclaimed it from a period of neglect; it destroyed the home of its builder and first owner, William Wyndham, Lord Grenville (1759-1834), British statesman and briefly, in 1806-7, prime minister.

One wonders what is in store for the remarkable arboretum that Grenville created on its grounds, beginning with plantings in 1792?

Yours faithfully,
WILLIAM A. MOFFETT
(Librarian), The Huntington,
1151 Oxford Road,
San Marino,
California 91108, USA.

Doctor's dismissal

From Dr S. Roy-Chowdhury

Sir, William Greaves's article ("Life and times", June 25) on my suspension, and subsequent dismissal, over the "capping" of used local-anesthetic needles at blood-donor sessions before disposal requires elaboration. Transcripts of two meetings held at the North East Thames regional blood-transfusion centre before the industrial tribunal hearing of my case, and not disclosed at the tribunal, showed that needle-cap-

ping was "extremely dangerous" and doctors should not do it. This was the result of expert advice.

I did not "reluctantly" agree to sheath used needles; I was forced to sign an undertaking to do so, pending a statutory hearing. This was never held and under the statutory provisions I should have been retained in my post as a senior hospital doctor meanwhile.

Yours faithfully,
SANJOY ROY-CHOWDHURY,
Nirala, Links Avenue,
Gidea Park, Essex.
June 27.

Honouring a wartime hero

From Mr J. K. Brownlee and others

Sir, Those of your readers who have lived or served in the Pacific, particularly in the Solomon Islands, will be interested to know that a statue of the legendary Sergeant-Major Jacob Vouza is to be unveiled on Guadalcanal on August 7 at the site of and on the anniversary of the landing in 1942 of the US Marines, who eventually turned back the Japanese tide sweeping across the Pacific, leading to ultimate victory for the Allies.

Vouza had retired from the Protectorate Armed Constabulary but on the invasion of the Solomons by the Japanese linked up with the Coastwatchers whose task it was, from behind the enemy lines in the Solomons and New Guinea, to obtain intelligence of Japanese movements and positions and relay it to the Allied forces.

While reconnoitring the Japanese positions around what was later called Henderson Field — then the only airfield in the Solomons — which had been seized by the US Marines, Vouza was captured. Refusing to inform his captors of the whereabouts of the Coastwatchers and others operating secretly in the area, he was tied to a tree, repeatedly bayoneted in the chest and throat and left for dead.

Eventually he freed himself and crawled through the Japanese positions back to the Marine lines. The airfield was held and Vouza was awarded the George Medal, the United States Silver Star and later appointed to the United States Legion of Merit. Vouza lent his prestige and authority to the measured and peaceful progress of the Solomons to independence which was achieved in 1978, when he was knighted. Sir Jacob died in 1984 at the age of 92, greatly respected not least in the United States where his wartime exploits earned him enduring fame and lasting friendships.

The bronze statue of Sir Jacob, as he appeared when facing the Japanese in 1942, is the centrepiece of a memorial to all Solomon Islanders and commemorates the armed forces of Fiji, Tonga, New Guinea, New Zealand and Australia who fought on Guadalcanal, in the Western Solomons and on Bougainville.

Yours faithfully,
J. K. BROWNLEE,
D. C. HORTON,
R. A. LEVER,
A. N. WADDELL,
7 Portsmouth Way,
Willington,
Eastbourne, East Sussex.
June 28.

Ballet 'coup'

From Mr M. D. Varcoe-Cocks

Sir, The news that the Bolshoi's great dancer, Irek Mukhamedov, is to join the Royal Ballet (report, June 13) and the growing number of invitations issued to other foreign stars (including the spectacular miscasting of the Bolshoi's Fadeychev in forthcoming performances of *The Prince of the Pagodas*) will further weaken the dangerously low morale of the company's existing young and talented dancers.

The comparison made by John Percival, in his interview with Mukhamedov (Arts, June 23), with the inspiration provided when Nureyev joined is quite false: he had no home and became a true member of the company. We have heard that Mukhamedov has joined for five years, but we have heard no commitment about his not jettisoning off to rewarding guest performances between his own Covent Garden performances.

I believe that these developments pose a most serious threat to the heritage of de Valois, Ashton and Fonteyn. This heritage can be saved only by a new director daring enough to commission for the existing dancers new work from outside the current favoured few.

Yours faithfully,
M. D. VARCOE-COCKS,
3 Brackenbury Road, W6,
June 24.

Community charge

From Mr H. D. McFarlane

Sir, I have been waiting in vain for the Government to make a firm statement that defaulters and late payers of the community charge will share the additional interest charges incurred.

According to recent surveys (report, June 22) the vast majority of our population have as usual behaved correctly and it would be wrong to penalise them for the sins of the unruly.

Yours faithfully,
H. D. MCFARLANE,
New Mile Corner, Winkfield Road,
Ascot, Berkshire.
June 24.

Brief encounter

From Mr Maurice Lousley

Sir, Surely a penalty shoot-out before the match is the way to rekindle interest in football, suggests my wife, an ardent Wimbledon fan.

Yours sincerely,
MAURICE LOUSLEY,
Dominies Lodge,
Aldborough,
Boroughbridge, North Yorkshire.
June 26.

Letters to the Editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — (071) 782 5046.

- FLYING: THE WOMAN WHO WINS
- BLACKSMITHS: HEAVY METAL
- CONTROVERSY: NATIONAL GALLERY
- ART: RECORD IMPRESSIONISTS

RK

WEEKEND

LIVING

SATURDAY JUNE 30 1990

17

The mansion that came back to life

Why would a bright young physicist risk his money and future on restoring a crumbling old pile no one else wants? Nigel Andrew found the answer

For an individual to take on the restoration of a substantial historic house is an act of magnificent folly, making sense only in terms of an obsessive love. The affair is likely to last for many years and cost an arm, a leg and an overdraft. It will have its intoxicating highs and crushing lows, and it could as well end in ruin as in success.

Many people said that David Pinnegar was mad when, at the age of 21, he embarked on restoring the derelict Hammerwood Park, outside East Grinstead, West Sussex. The Duke of Grafton, a former chairman of the Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings, was heard to mutter after a tour of the ruins: "Chap's a lunatic. It's far too far gone." Eight years on, few would question Mr Pinnegar's sanity: the wonders he has worked are there for all to see. But even he is not out of the woods yet.

Since the Second World War, conventional wisdom has had it that really big houses are no longer viable as family homes, and can function only as hotels, apartment blocks, conference or leisure centres. Some people bucked this trend as early as the 1950s: the Marquess of Hertford moved back into a near-derelict Ragley Hall and restored it to splendour; the Duke of Devonshire re-occupied Chatsworth against all advice, and only this year the Earl of Feversham re-opened Duncombe Park as a family home after 60 years as a girls' school.

But when Mr Pinnegar came upon Hammerwood Park he had nothing behind him but an aunt's legacy — a Victorian house in Surrey, which he had sold — and a conservation-minded family. He was nervously awaiting the results of his final physics examinations from Imperial College, London, and looking over houses was a way of giving himself something else to think about. When he discovered Hammerwood Park, it was not love at first sight. "It was the ugliest great hulk I'd ever seen," he says. Nevertheless, he paid £150,000 for it.

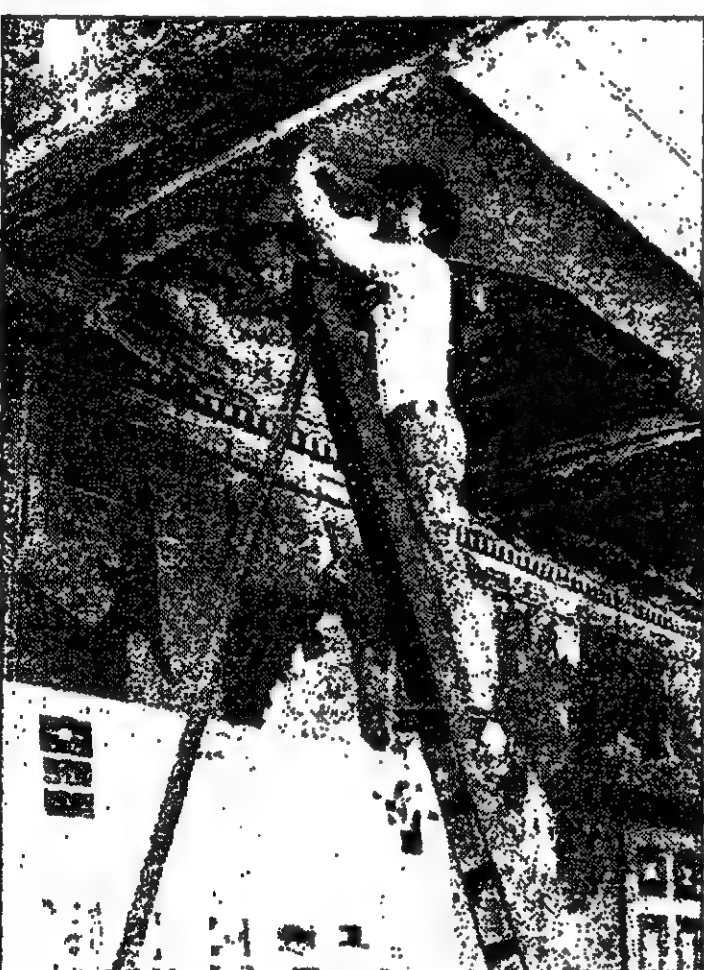
The three-storey Greek revival house, set in 40 acres, was in such an advanced state of decay that *Country Life* advertised it for sale with a tactful sketch rather than a photograph. Vandals had stripped four tons of lead from the roof, leaving 14 gaping holes through which the rain poured, rotting everything in its path. What fragments remained of the ceilings lay around on what little remained of the floors. In 49 of the 50 rooms dry rot had eaten away floorboards, beams and doorcases, and huge mushrooms had covered all the interior fittings. The house appeared to be a hopeless case.

But Mr Pinnegar looked closer. Shining his torch through a hatchway in one of the false ceilings, he saw an exquisitely wrought plaster fleur-de-lis and English rose motif. "I decided I would buy the place and restore it — not only the fabric, but the life within the house."

There are various pet formulas for success in running a grand house. The Earl of March and Kinrara, who owns Goodwood House, swears by the three W's: wealth, the will and a helpful wife.



A young man's dream of home: above, David Pinnegar and the once derelict 200-year-old Hammerwood Park house, Sussex. Below: repairing the crumbling dining-room ceiling, which was falling on to a rotting floor



Mr Pinnegar had only the will — though he has since married Anne Noelle, a journalist. But in 1982 he was, he realised, "in a unique position". He was young enough to have the necessary time and energy, enough capital from the sale of his aunt's house to make a start, no commitments — and no job. Besides, he felt a growing sense of duty and challenge: "If I didn't take on the house no one else was going to, and it would be lost forever. It had literally only a

couple of months to go before it collapsed."

The parlous state of Hammerwood was the outcome of a sad history. The house had passed from owner to owner ever since it was built in 1792, and had gone into decline after its brief Edwardian heyday. It had served as a prep school and a wartime billet, and finally, in the 1950s, had been ineptly subdivided into 11 flats. Under false ceilings, breeze block dividing walls had created a

sequence of poky little spaces, an ideal breeding ground for dry rot. "The tenants started moving out," Mr Pinnegar says, "when the mushrooms began growing out of their walls."

Things went from bad to worse. The empty property was put on the market in 1973 and caught the collective eye of Led Zeppelin, the rock group, which considered converting it into a recording studio and living quarters. But nothing was done, except that over the following years the vandals got to work, as did the rain, the rot and the rabbits in the grounds. So it was that in 1982 Mr Pinnegar bought a building in such an advanced state of decay that even he thought he would have to demolish one wing.

He did not. He has saved the entire structure of this important house. It is one of only two surviving English works by Benjamin Latrobe, the other one being Ashdown House at nearby Forest Row. Latrobe is best known as the architect of the Capitol and the White House, in Washington — and, no, Mr Pinnegar has not found any American money: Latrobe enthusiasts over there wrote to him asking for help with their own fund-raising.

Amazingly, Hammerwood Park was opened to visitors six months after the purchase, albeit with only the most urgent repair work done. Since then all but one of the main rooms has been restored to their original colour schemes of pastel pinks, blues and greys, with the plasterwork remade and convincing furnishings imported.

There are usually two or three men at work about the house. George Riddlecombe has been with the project all along. He learnt his plastering from old Maurice Hodge, now dead, who remembered how things used to be done when he was young. Mr Riddlecombe, in his turn, has passed on his plastering skills to a

succession of visiting students. At the start, professional plasterers asked a jaw-dropping £1,800 per mould. So, using his own trial and error methods, Mr Pinnegar found that he could make eight plaster moulds for £180. He has mostly used rubber moulds, and a plasterer's "horse" for shaping corners.

The Fleur-de-lis Room moulds were made out of a flour and water dough. Such improvisation is a key to keeping costs down. Mr Pinnegar buys all his timber second-hand, not only because it is cheaper, but because, he says, it is better. He has also put the odd railway sleeper to good use.

By scouring the auction houses, and keeping his cars open, Mr Pinnegar has made many good finds. Barter, too, has been effective. The oak finials, removed from the grand staircase by vandals, were reproduced by a Dutch craftsman in exchange for a bough from Hammerwood Park's overgrown yew hedge.

So far the work on Hammerwood Park has cost more than £200,000, and Mr Pinnegar reckons on spending as much again over the next two decades. Nearly half the overall cost has been met

by grant aid, chiefly from English Heritage, with smaller sums from the district and county councils. The rest has come from his aunt's much-stretched legacy, functions such as classical concerts, and admission fees.

He has established a Latrobe Heritage Trust, a Hammerwood Park Society and even the 1792 Club, which issues "premium bonds" to raise money.

"A house is not fully restored until it's earning its keep," Mr Pinnegar says, and in this he has a struggle on his hands. One thing he can do is to hire out parts of the house for photographic work, television, even pop videos. The dining-room — the one major room that is still unrestored, with alarming views through the ceiling — was the set for a bizarre Channel 4 talkshow, which never got beyond the pilot stage.

Because of council-imposed restrictions, Mr Pinnegar cannot open the house to the public other than on Saturday and Wednesday afternoons and bank holidays Mondays, or hold concerts and recitals more often. Hammerwood Park can be reached only by a narrow road which winds past several houses and, since he opened, there have been loud

complaints about the extra traffic on the road. Mr Pinnegar wants to buy land to make his own access road, but the council has refused to compulsorily purchase the necessary land. As a result, Mr Pinnegar says, Hammerwood Park remains starved of the visitors who should be its lifeblood — and in more ways than the purely economic. "This house was built for entertainment, to be furnished with people," he says. "Until we can open it on a proper basis, it won't be fully restored."

He still exudes the youthful enthusiasm that has fuelled eight years of Herculean effort. He has a refreshingly relaxed attitude to conservation — he is content, for example, to let the daisies grow from the extraordinary Doric porticos that flank the house. At once a romantic idealist and a practical scientific thinker, he has just the qualities needed to see through a project on this scale. Above all, he has endless patience. He is surely going to need it over the coming years.

● Hammerwood Park, off the A264, four miles east of East Grinstead, West Sussex, is open on Saturdays, Wednesdays and bank holiday Mondays, 2pm-5.30pm, adults £2.50, children and pensioners £1.25.

WEEKENDING

ALAN FRANKS



will argue, is objectively true, against all the evidence of the oncoming generation.

This time I found myself at the heart of a landscape; the Derbyshire peak district, which is the perfect geographical expression of a grander and more outrageous nostalgia.

It is a post-industrial playground of waymarks, wildlife and dead waterways. The rain scars are dun-coloured snakes that have long ago sloughed off their silver skins, and the iron mills that howled with child labour have matured to tasteful ruins.

Those great feats of land-leveling, the cuttings and the canals, are now safe paths along which we commune with the echoes of activity laid low.

But something else has occurred, and more recently. The hostel is not a hostel at all, but a "centre". Once, it was a wharf shed; now it has been rendered and has that smell of newish plaster and storage heaters.

There are duvets on the bunk beds, there is an area where

nothing happens, and this is referred to as the Void. The whole place looks set for a company's weekend seminar on staff relations.

And the people: they are not youth at all, but centrally aged human units, and they are paying to not enjoy themselves.

Their walking trousers are gashed with zips, but the pockets do not contain anything. They have huge nylon spats, like designer drays, but the weather is bone-dry. The fabric of their backpacks is strained with tents they will not pitch, and one is even carrying a coil of climbing rope, "just for the extra weight".

At lights-out in the dorm there are no jokes, no irreverences, no laughing at the leader's expense; just the muted rasp of Velcro fastenings across the darkness. The green parties of the old days — green spelled with a small, or junior g — have been ousted by the greys.

The thrust of their manifesto is that leisure should have the appearance of penance at all times. Hence the silent meals, the

borstal clank of the cutlery, the odd conversations which begin and end with a swapping of mileages done.

As the family is to the Conservative party, so the slide-show is to the greys, an inviolate unit without which society cannot function. The dullness which Pope foresaw in *The Dunciad* was pure radiance by comparison.

I gather there is a sort of ginger group among youth hostellers which would like to bring back the old values, but they will never shift the greys.

Youth, by definition, holds the key, and today there are far fewer school parties doing this sort of thing, partly because of the education cuts and partly because of teachers' increasing use of field centres.

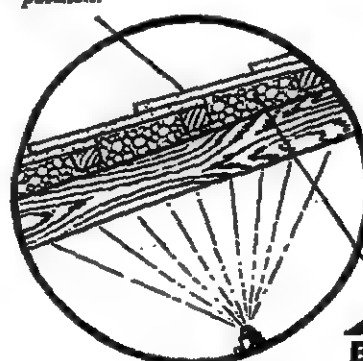
The greys are very consistent; because they are anti-enjoyment, and because they have grasped the fact that walking in the countryside is often most enjoyable when done alone. What better way could they have of fulfilling their manifesto than inflicting themselves on one another?

Ragged-trousered misanthropist I may be, but there is just one last thing that bothers me. Were the greys there all along in the hostels of my youth, while I was too green to see them as sinister? Has my own colour changed to such a pitch that I am now too close to find them funny?

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Reaching for fame in the sky

The competitors in this weekend's Schneider Trophy air race include four British women.
Sandy Bisp reports

Today, a 39-year-old mother of two will be racing through the skies above southern England in search of fame in the hall of aviation history. In what she describes as "the most fun that can be had legally in the air", Safaya Hemming will be going for her second win in the Schneider Trophy air race. Mrs Hemming, an artist, writer and businesswoman, won the race last year, the first woman to do so.

Mrs Hemming has two daughters, aged nine and 20; the younger child is named after Amelia Earhart, the first woman to fly solo across the Atlantic. Memories of another pioneering woman pilot fill a hangar near Mrs Hemming's home in Cheltenham, Gloucestershire. It contains what is left of Amy Johnson's "Black Magic", one of the few British De Havilland Racing Comets built, and the one in which Miss Johnson and her husband, Jim Morrison, led the 1934 Mildenhall Race to Australia as far as India. Mrs Hemming's husband, Nick, a commercial pilot, intends to restore the aircraft.

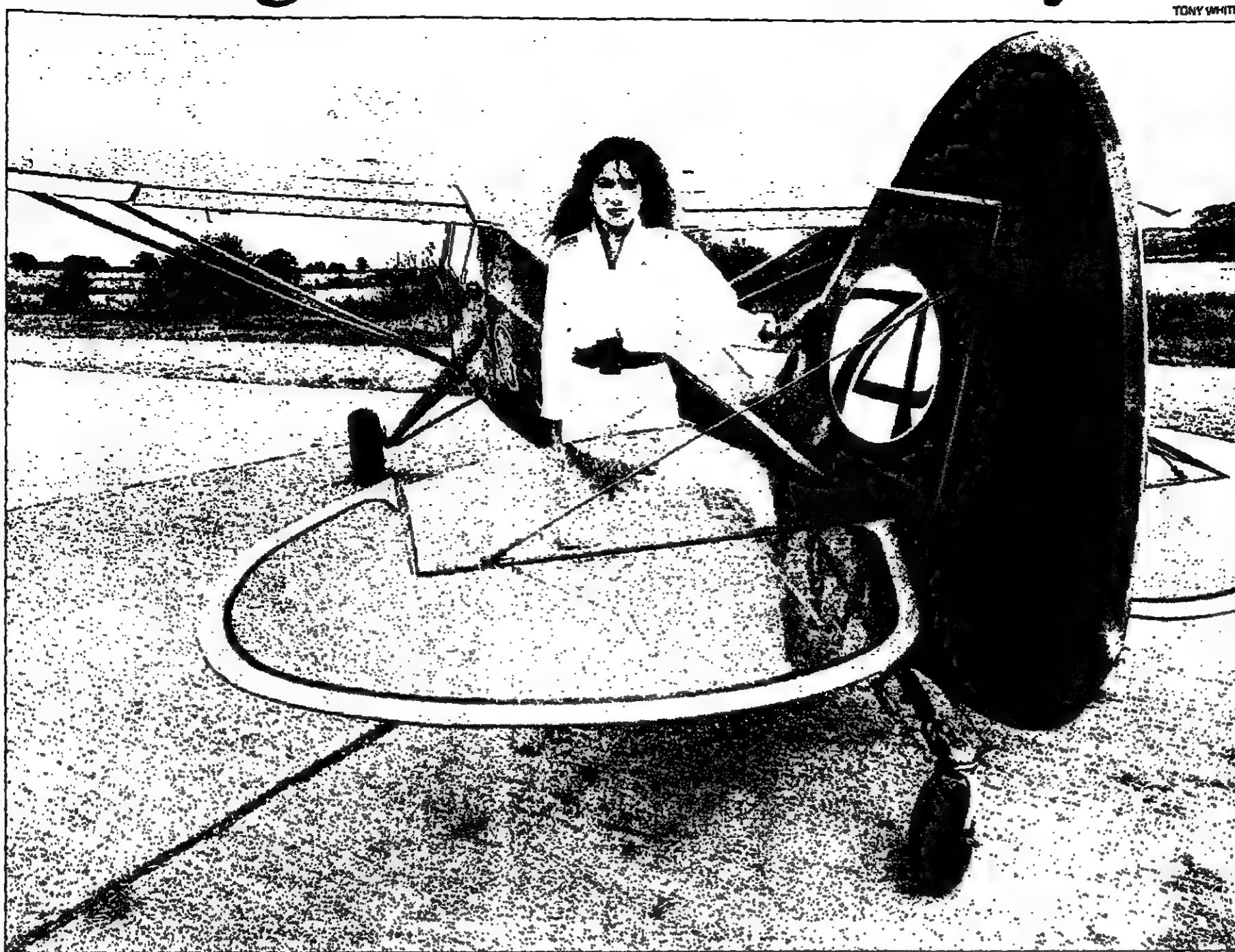
She became interested in racing after her husband, then a flying instructor, taught her to fly eight years ago. She is cool, correct and non-alarmist on the subject, emphasising the safety factors of the rules rigorously applied by the Royal Aero Club Records, Racing and Rally Association, under whose auspices all air racing in this country is held.

The Schneider Trophy is special, trailing clouds of glory since its inception as a homage to the pioneering seaplanes. In 1912, the eponymous French industrialist presented La Coupe d'Aviation Maritime Jacques Schneider for seaplane races over open water. At that time, the sea worthiness and speed trials were open to aero clubs, rather than individual pilots; governments underwrote aircraft designs for what became an aero shop window. The first contest in 1913 was won by France, for the only time. The next year Britain was the winner. When the contest resumed in 1919 after the first world war, the Schneider Trophy was shared between Britain, Italy and the United States. Any country winning three times in five contests took the trophy outright, and thus it came to Britain for good in 1931 after three consecutive victories.

The Schneider event was reborn in modern form as a land plane race eight years ago by the sponsor of the British Air Racing Championship, Digital Equipment, and Mrs Hemming has flown in every race since.

Piloting her two-seater Piper Pacer aircraft, she will compete in today's heats against 60 other pilots, including ten from the Continent, entered for the 127-mile, four-lap race around the Isle of Wight. The final takes place tomorrow. Last year she outlived an Italian brigadier-general and RAF and Royal Navy pilots. Her winning speed in her Piper PA22 was 133.16 mph.

The Cairo-born daughter of an Egyptian professor of aesthetics and a British artist mother, she says: "I always knew flying would be part of my life at some stage. As



Going it alone: reigning Schneider Trophy champion Safaya Hemming with her two-seater Piper Pacer plane: "I always knew flying would be part of my life at some stage," she says

a child I heard about my god-mother's husband flying early Tiger and Leopard Moths. He had a collection of De Havilland Moths in the 1930s, and was lucky enough to have a deer park in Somerset in which to land." Last year her husband navigated for her Schneider win, but this weekend she intends to go up alone.

Male dominance in the sport is lessening: there will be four women pilots racing for the trophy this year, compared with two last season. Carolyn Evans, for a long time Mrs Hemming's only female rival, proves that it is possible to participate in the sport without owning one's own aeroplane. Miss Evans, from London, is in her thirties and the

director of a company championing the rights of international air passengers.

"I am one of a group of nine co-owners of a Bolkow Messer Monsum. One of the other co-owners enjoys air racing so we take it in turns to navigate. While it's important to feel at one with your aeroplane it is not imperative to own one, or to spend a fortune, for air racing to be fun. This season will probably cost me £1,500."

Melanie Willis will also be flying in the Schneider, although this is her first air racing season. To qualify, pilots must have completed at least two races in the last year and their aircraft must be able to reach 100mph, with handicapping ensuring competitors fly on equal terms. Mrs Willis, aged 34, the mother of an

eight-year-old son and a five-year-old daughter, learnt to fly three years ago, but first had to force herself through the phobia barrier. "After my first flying lesson I ended up virtually hysterical on my instructor's lap while he patted my head, saying: 'You're frightened of dying, not flying.' Her husband Bob, a company director, is a flying-boat buff and keen air racing pilot."

"This weekend I shall be flying to win, but it is the taking part that counts. The camaraderie is wonderful and the thrill of air racing is the privilege of competing at top level, with some of the best pilots in the country," she says.

Mrs Willis has a Luscombe Silvair, kept on a field strip near the couple's home in Clapham, Bedfordshire. Racing costs and maintaining the plane, together with the social side of the season, will cost her about £10,000.

Sally Martin, aged 42, will also be competing in the Schneider. The wife of architect Kit Martin, she keeps her 1982 Cessna 172 at the bottom of her garden near Cromer, Norfolk.

"I'm not that competitive," Mrs Martin says. "I like the longer trips: I flew to Turkey last year, and to Malaga. I like looking out of the window and back to the AA road map occasionally."

She learnt to fly three years ago and her husband, even though he does not hold a pilot's licence, is very encouraging. "We have a home in Scotland as well and, if the weather's bad, he is the one who ensures there should be no problem flying on instruments."

● **Flye Edwardian festival:** begins today with craft market, bands, Punch and Judy, and townspeople in Edwardian dress; followed by a barn dance this evening. Tomorrow: an Edwardian civic service in the church 10.45am, procession through the town from 3.00pm. Daily family activities. **Flye North Yorkshire.** Today until July 8 (0723 512304).

● **Annual historical recreation -** Keatwell 1529: 200 people in Tudor costume recreating life as it would have been in and around the Hall 361 years ago. **Keatwell Hall, Long Melford, Suffolk** (0787 310207), 11am-5pm, today £6.50, child £4, tomorrow £7, child £5.

● **Summer Stage 90:** fourth open air concert in historic properties belonging to the National Trust and English Heritage. Tonight, mainly Mozart, with the Scottish Ensemble. Take chair. **Hopetoun House, near Edinburgh.** Gates open 6pm, concert 8pm; £7.50 in advance, £8.50 at door (031 6682019/031 2258616).

● **Thaxted festival:** tonight St James's Baroque Players, tomorrow the Ionian Singers. **Thaxted Church, Essex.** 7.30pm, tonight £11 reserved, £7 unreserved, tomorrow £6 reserved, £4 unreserved (0371 830350).

● **St Paul's Walden celebrations -** Happy and Glorious: beginning today, in honour of the 90th birthday of the Queen Mother, who spent much of her childhood here. Exhibition of photographs, of her life from childhood. **All Saints Church, St Paul's**

Walden, Hertfordshire. Today until August 5, 2-6pm except July 15, free (043887 510/449).

● **Stambridge weekend:** jazz, Viennese and classical music, fireworks. Tonight, grounds open 7pm, concert until midnight. £10, child £5 (credit cards 0625 573477). Tomorrow, children's day with storytelling, Pinocchio exhibition, puppets, games, hot-air balloons, donkey rides and Madhatter's tea party; 11am-5pm, £3, child £1.50. Madhatter's party £1 for Save the Children. **Stambridge, near Milford, Staffordshire** (0889 881388).

● **Living history 1771:** manor run as it might have been in the late 18th century with staff in costume. **Sulgrave Manor, Sulgrave, Banbury, Oxfordshire** (0295 76205). Today until July 8, 10.30am-5.30pm, £3, child £1.50.

● **Toytown weekend:** events for children - those with teddy bears admitted free - and train rides. **Midland Railway Centre, Ripley, Derbyshire** (0733 747674). Today, tomorrow 11.30am-4.15pm; today £2.80, child £1.40, tomorrow £3.30, child £1.65.

● **Vineyard country fair:** in aid of the Kit Wilson Fund for Animal Welfare, with stalls, horse, carriage, pony rides, Morris men, bands. **St George's Vineyards, Waldron, East Sussex** (043 53 2156). Today, tomorrow, 11am-5pm.

NEXT WEEK

● **The Royal Show:** exhibitions and demonstrations in livestock, arable farming, forestry, farm

machinery, countryside tourism, conservation, crafts, plus continuous arena displays. **National Agricultural Centre, Stoneleigh, nr Kenilworth, Warwickshire** (0203 696969). Mon and Tue 8am-6.30pm, Wed and Thur until 7.30pm, £9, child 5-15 £4.50 before 1pm, then £5 and £2.50, under-5 free.

● **Other watches:** see others at the RSPB nature reserve, also Britain's largest colony of bitterns, bearded tits, grasshopper warblers, and tufted duck. **Leighton Moss Nature Reserve, Carnforth, Lancashire.** Tomorrow and Tuesdays, July 3-31, Thursdays, July 5-26, 8pm (information 0434 536331).

● **Music at the castle:** medieval music plus dancing, archery and marquee. **Castle Rising Castle, King's Lynn, Norfolk.** Wed-Sun from 2pm, £2, child £1 (0553 631330).

● **National patchwork championships:** hundreds of quilts by enthusiasts. **Hatfield House, Hatfield, Hertfordshire.** Thur-Sun, 10am-5pm, 6pm last day, £3.80, child £1.50 (information 0603 812259).

Breeding Feathers in their cap

THE Brecon Buff goose was barely recognised as a breed until just over 50 years ago. Now there is a good chance that it could waddle off with the premier prize at next month's Royal Welsh Show.

The originator of the breed was Rhys Llewellyn, brother of Sir Harry of Foxhunter showjumping fame. Now Sabrina and David Johnson are continuing his work.

At their hill farm, 1,000ft up in the outer reaches of Lampeter, Dyfed, the Johnsons have spent nearly ten years developing the finer points of the dappled, full-bodied birds, distinguished by candy-pink beaks and feet. The smallest amount of orange is unacceptable.

In the early days the Johnsons faced setbacks which included a white gander getting at all the buff, resulting in a flock of crossbreeds; a buff gander who surprised everyone by laying an egg; and another which died of pneumonia after swimming in cold weather. But the present senior stock gander is working well, even though it has been a poor year for breeding.

"Out of five geese we have produced only ten young ones," Mr Johnson says. Since the couple aim to dress 12 geese at Christmas, selling for around £2 a pound, the margin is tight. Geese sold for



Champions: Brecon Buff geese

breeding fetch £25-£30 each, £60 for two, or £85 for a trio of a gander and two geese - a boxed medley. The Johnsons sell the feathers to an old man.

In a good year, a gander can earn around £450; in a bad year, the figure drops to about £150. But geese cost very little to keep outdoors, where they feed on fresh grass, and they need morning only three times a year.

Six weeks before Christmas the birds are fattened with wheat or barley, but so superior is the flavour of the Brecon Buff that it can be killed without fattening.

SANDY BISP

● **Sabrina and David Johnson, Rhylwyl Isaf, Cilcennin, Lampeter, Dyfed.** SA45 8RS (0570 470310). More information on the Brecon Buff can be obtained from John Hall, who breeds ornamental and domestic waterfowl at Red House Farm, Chediston, Halesworth, Suffolk IP19 0LD (099685 231) and from the secretary, The British Waterfowl Association, 6 Coldicot Close, Over, Wincobur, Cheshire CW7 1LW.

Walk

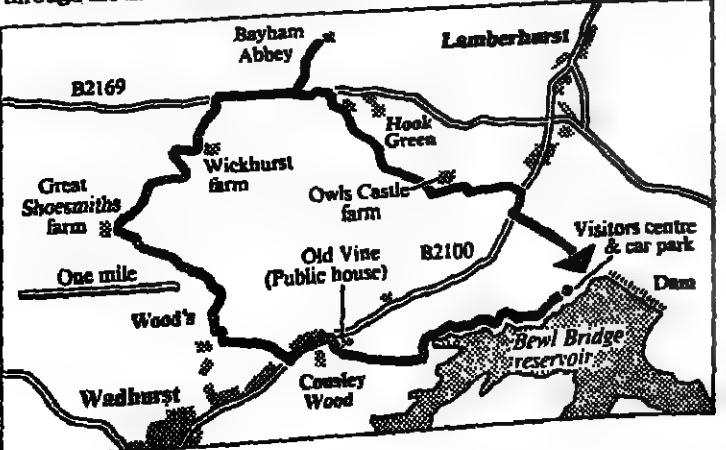
BEWL Bridge Reservoir is the largest inland water expanse in the south-east of England. Walkers can cross the 1,000-yard dam and follow the 15 mile perimeter path, sampling the rolling wealden country on the border between Kent and East Sussex.

Start at the visitor centre, keeping the reservoir to your left. After about 1½ miles take the signposted path to Cousley Wood. Turn left along the B2100 at the Old Vine public house. Take a bridge gate on the right-hand side of the road, about 150 yards after Monk's Lane. Follow the stiled right of way across fields to reach a lane at Gatehouse Farm. Here turn right, and after 100 yards take the lane on the left. At the telephone box, turn right on a no through road. Immediately before the house called Trewyck, turn right. Follow this waymarked right of way to Great Shoemith's Farm.

Cross a stile to the left of a small pond and turn right to pass through the farm buildings, taking

the footpath (yellow waymark) heading over to the right. After crossing a footbridge in woodland, take the path to the left, following the stream. This climbs out of the valley to the east to meet a lane where you turn left. Take the track on the right to Winkhurst Farm but, before the private drive, turn left down a footpath between fields. This leads to the B2169, where you turn right. A short detour can be made to the ruins of Bayham Abbey. Soon after the Bayham Abbey drive, take footpath 392 to Hook Green. Here, take the path directly opposite and follow it along the left-hand edge of a large field, later turning left to enter a hop field along a track which leads to a small road. Climb the stile opposite to follow a path which emerges at another lane close to buildings. Turn left and follow the road to the B2100. Turn right and after 100 yards pass through a gate on the left, taking the footpath leading back to the reservoir.

ALAN CASTLE



Originals: Ian Norbury, woodcarver

Taming the wild wood

MASTER woodcarver Ian Norbury was not so adept at carving a niche for himself in his very first job, which he describes as "horrendous". "For a year I worked in an Ordnance Survey map accounts department, mainly consigning invoices to Kalamazoo files," he recalls.

Mr Norbury, aged 41, only completed his art degree when nearly 30; even then, a three-year sculpture course might have more naturally prepared him to work in ceramics. A college technician opened his eyes to carving by entrusting him with a precious set of chisels and gouges.

The man whose teaching skills are now sought by Europe's foremost woodcarving schools is often saddened by the assembly-line approach to much craft work on the Continent. "I would say almost 99 per cent of what you see there is made on machines," he says. He has watched rows of craftsmen in Bavaria, each with his quota of identical wooden figures requiring merely a pre-ordained chip here and there on a fold of drapery.

Nothing could be further from Mr Norbury's work. So many amateur woodcarvers from all over Britain approach him with problems of technique that he has resorted to holding private exhibitions of his work, since notices in the trade press brought mini-buses of his imitators, whittling away the space available for bona fide customers and collectors. He is principally concerned with fig-



Art and craft: Ian Norbury carving one of his exhibition characters

ure work, with prices ranging from £1,000 to £4,000.

His first book on woodcarving has sold 7,000 copies, and the next two look like repeating its success, with considerable sales notched up through translations. The newly democratised eastern European countries, where wood carving is widely practised, offer further potential.

The artist-craftsman is currently preparing for his annual September exhibition at Eastington Hall in Gloucestershire - admission will be by invitation. His theme this year is characters from Shakespeare. He will exhibit around 20 carved figures in a variety of

woods, frequently inlaid or embellished with metal. Puck is carved from briar root butt with copper wings and inlay; Touchstone is resplendent in walnut and more than 100 gold buttons and bells. His clown's stick topped with a minutely carved green malachite head.

SANDY BISP

● **Ian Norbury's books:** Technique of Creative Woodcarving, Projects for Creative Woodcarving, and Realistic Woodcarving and Lettering are published by Stobart Davies, 67-71 Worship Street, London EC2A 2EL. His White Knight Gallery is at Painswick Road, Cheltenham (0242 238582).

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Assets

Forging cold beauties

Britain's blacksmiths are forging ahead. A new confidence is emerging in an increasing number of young designer-makers who are turning down traditional work in order to create their own innovative pieces.

Horseshoes, it seems, have given way to high art, and dozens of shops and galleries now stock the work of individual smiths, including candlesticks and fireplace accessories, furniture and mirrors, light fittings and shelves.

Among the new breed of blacksmiths is Giles Blakeley, aged 26, who is more of a traditionalist than some of his peers, having learned his skills through a five-year apprenticeship at a forge in Westerham, Kent, where most of the blacksmithing comprised horse work.

Three years ago he set up his own business, specialising in the restoration of antique ironwork, particularly from the 17th century. But that does not mean he has no time for the more creative side of smithing, and he enjoys the challenge of one-off commissions for fireplace sets, candlesticks and other domestic pieces.

Mr Blakeley does not sell through shops or galleries, and most of his work comes by word of mouth. His outdoor items are all painted black. The interior pieces are finished with black wax to bring up the texture of the metalwork. His hobby is forging swords and knives — as a variation on the tool and agricultural repairs which make up the bulk of his business — and he hopes to expand this side of his work to include Japanese-style knives and other arms and helmets copied from originals.

"I was originally going to be a cabinet-maker," he says. "However, working in metal feels right for me, so I have no regrets. Anyway, I do a bit of carving in my spare time. I'm a jack-of-all-trades really."

Heather Burrell, aged 26, has a forge in south London and produces decorative mirror frames, candlesticks and curly, twisted, metal furniture. She developed a taste for metalwork at Wimbledon School of Art, where she took a BA in sculpture.

"I experimented with wood, clay and plaster, but never really felt at home until I worked in steel," she says. "I like its raw qualities, and the fact that it's extremely strong, yet can be manipulated. You can do almost anything with it in its molten state."

Ms Burrell joined the government-funded Design Enterprise Programme, run by the London Enterprise Agency, in 1988. This two-month course introduced her to marketing and book-keeping, as well as providing introductions to store buyers. By the summer of that year she had set up her own smithing business.

Her work is sold through London stockists such as The Study, Wood, and Wilson & Gough. Prices start from about £45 for small candle-holders and



Swordsman: Giles Blakeley specialises in restoring ironwork, and makes knives and swords as a hobby

shelf brackets, while large mirror frames cost from £200. She also makes to individual commission, and is engaged in forging an 18th desk for a reception area at the Fine White Line design company.

She hopes to do more furniture work, as well as architectural pieces such as balustrades and gates for domestic and commercial properties. "Decorative metalwork is very fashionable at the moment," she says. "But I've tried to keep away from really eccentric work. Compared with some of the pieces in the shops, my work is quite traditional, and yet it has a modern feel. In ten years, when the imagery that's in vogue now has been forgotten, I think my work will still look good."

● Giles Blakeley can be contacted at Towers Lodge Forge, Brick Yard Lane, Mark Cross, Crowborough, East Sussex (089285 3230).

● Heather Burrell, The Steel Studio, 206B Bedford Hill, SW12 9HL (081-473 5492).

● Information on commissioning original metalwork is available from Alan Dawson, secretary of the British Artist Blacksmiths' Association, c/o Shepley Dawson Architectural Engineering, Joseph Noble Road, Lillihall, Worthington, Cambridgeshire CB4 4JX (0900 68366).

NICOLE SWENGLY

Where to buy

● McCleod & Co, 61 Hillier Road, London SW11 (071-350 1448). Range of decorative mirrors, light fittings, chandeliers, candlesticks, chairs and console tables, including twisted metal chairs by Stan Pike, the Northumbrian smith.

● Graham & Green, 186 Kensington Park Road, London W11 (071-792 3134). Wrought iron furniture designed by Sarah Jane Wakeley and made by Stan Pike, including armchairs, dining chairs, sofas, footstools, pedestal and console tables; wall sconces and candlesticks by Divine Light and Sally Ure Reid.

● The Study, 55 Endell Street, London WC2 (071-240 5844). Wrought iron stools by Stephen Brinscombe, candlesticks by Francis Plowden, candelabra by Catherine Purves, towel racks and lampshades in oxidized metal by Christian Funnel, aluminium/upholstered chairs by Mark Brazier Jones.

● Davies, 10 Great Newport Street, London WC2 (071-240 2223). Wrought iron furniture by Stan Pike, including dining chairs and tables, sofas, armchairs and footstool. Davies' own design wrought iron lamps and candlesticks.

● Contemporary Applied Arts, 43 Earham Street, London WC2 (071-836 6993). Patinated metal pieces by Raef Baldwin, including candlesticks and wall-mounted candelabra and fountains, sundials and weather vanes. Gates and fire-irons by Andrew Smith, gates and fencing by Alan Evans. Non-functional humorous machinery by Hazel Jones, metal automata by Lucy Casson and Andy Hazel, linked metal sculptures by Amanda Bright, bronze and copper sculptures by Mike Savage, painted metal and wire toys by Julia Griffiths.

● South Bank Craft Shop & Gallery, Royal Festival Hall, South Bank Centre, London SE1 (071-921 0843). Candlesticks by Kevin Boys, figurative sculpture by Avril Wilson and

decorative, mixed metal and ceramic sculpture by Guy Holder.

● Wilson & Gough, 106 Draycott Avenue, London SW3 (071-823 7082). Mirrors and chaise longue by Heather Burrell, Toby Russell's pewter vessels, contemporary non-functional pieces in stainless steel by Rebecca De Quim.

● Solo Designs, 263 King's Road, London SW3 (071-376 5866). Scroll range of wrought ironwork, designed by Peter Leonard, includes chairs, dining tables, sofas, console and coffee tables.

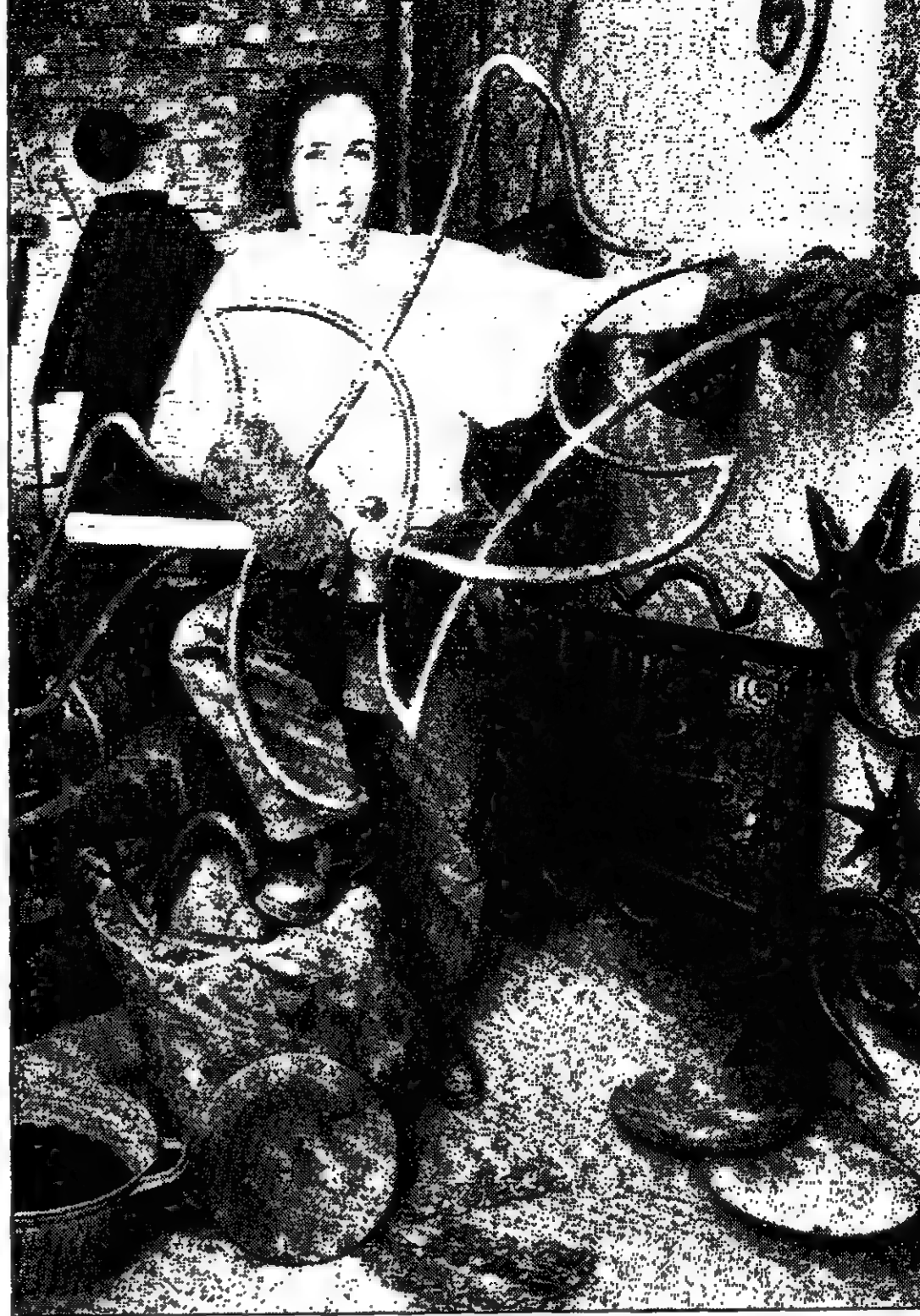
● Joseph, 77 Fulham Road, London SW3 (071-823 9500) and 26 Sloane Street, London SW3 (071-235 5470). Candlesticks by Kevin Boys and Matthew Hillson at Fulham, chairs and tables by Mark Brazier Jones and Tom Dixon at Sloane Street.

● Wood, The Forge, 192 Petersham Road, Petersham, near Richmond, Surrey (081-332 1602). Unconventional jugs and chairs by Brian Fell, candlesticks by Kevin Boys and Heather Burrell, chairs and tables by Tim Sherburne, candelabra, standard lamps, weather-vanes and sundials by Tim Fortune, Owen Thomas's mirrors, Scorpion candleholders.

● House of Steel, 400 Caledonian Road, Islington, London N1 (071-607 5889). Range of metalwork from balconies to cast iron urns and dining furniture. Specialists in fire-places.

● Haus, 7 Angel Row, Nottingham (0602 414777). Candlesticks and mirrors by Adrian Reynolds, metal chairs by Alistair Brown, vases, mirrors, screens and candlesticks by Cathy Parker, beds, chairs, baroque sofas and candlesticks by Jennifer Edwards.

● Conroy Felley Gallery, 6 Merchant's Court, St George's Street, Norwich (0603 630339). Chairs, candlesticks and candelabra by Mandy Read and Jo Evans, furniture by Adrian Reynolds and table-top items by James Horrobin.



Shaping up: Heather Burrell experiments with decorative ironwork, but hopes to explore furniture-making

Obsessions: Joanna Mackle

A head of the field

JOANNA Mackle wanted to make a splash when she joined the publicity department of Faber & Faber, the publisher, seven years ago. So she bought a matador hat, which certainly got her noticed. The hat also spawned a collection of headgear which grew as her career took off.

Miss Mackle, aged 31, is now the publicity director of Faber & Faber, and says that hats have helped her heady ascent. "You have to be self-confident to wear a hat," she says. She has a room stocked with hatboxes, each one containing three or four variations on a theme. And each of those nearly 30 hats has several possible permutations, like a black boater with a white camellia pinned to its brim, which can be accessorised with white or black spotted netting, large hatpins or a big taffeta bow, depending on the occasion and her mood.

"I collect hat accessories, too," she says, rifling through the contents of the spotted, striped and octagonal hatboxes, which contain all sorts of bits which she will spend hours sewing on to her hats.

A pet hate is "the silly little hats people wear to weddings. I like big, bold hats that make a statement." Miss Mackle blushing confirms that one, with feathers and netting, made such a strong statement that the venerable Chuck Berry made a pass at her when she was in charge of the tour which publicised his autobiography.

The star of her collection is a Freddie Fox picture hat in black organza, which cost £250; more than she dreamed she would ever pay for a hat. "My straw coat only about £20, and my Kirsten Woodwards about £50. But hats are getting more expensive."

When she finds a special hat she buys the outfit to go with it, rather than the other way around. "This is my Booker Prize hat," she says, fondly stroking a crushed velvet,



Peek-a-boo: Joanna Mackle goes in for elegant, spectacular numbers

wide-brimmed pancake that came with tacky red and green flowers which she has lovingly replaced with black and eau de nil. She haunts the Hat Shop in Covent Garden, and Porchester Hats, near Paddington, and numbers cossack hats, berets, Beefeaters and Victorian-style riding hats with veils among her hoard, many of which, like most of her clothes, are black.

WHEN she chooses a hat she is choosing her role for the day: an exotic, assertive personality that is fun to live up to and, sometimes, a relief to discard at the end of the day. (You have to keep your hat on once you have decided to wear it, she says, or fling it off dramatically the moment you enter a room. You can't decide halfway through a meeting that you are uncomfortable.)

Although she has no hesitation about throwing away clothes which are past their prime, she will never dispose of a hat. "Some I've worn only once; others, like the Victorian riding hat, hundreds of times. Some I might wear only for special occasions; others in the supermarket at weekends, like my New York Mets baseball cap."

"You have to walk tall in hats," she says. The spotted veils, however, need to be lifted to get down to serious work.

But don't the wide-brimmed numbers she favours make it difficult to engage in all that kissing for which publishing types are well known? "Yes," Miss Mackle concedes. "People have to bend down and really make an effort... so it's easy to avoid people you don't like."

VICTORIA MCKEE

The watering hole that flowed with spies

About town: Cheltenham

SADLY, Cheltenham has a bad name. From the 1840s, when the first ex-colonials left India to retire there, the town has been synonymous with colonels, curries and excruciatingly genteel boredom.

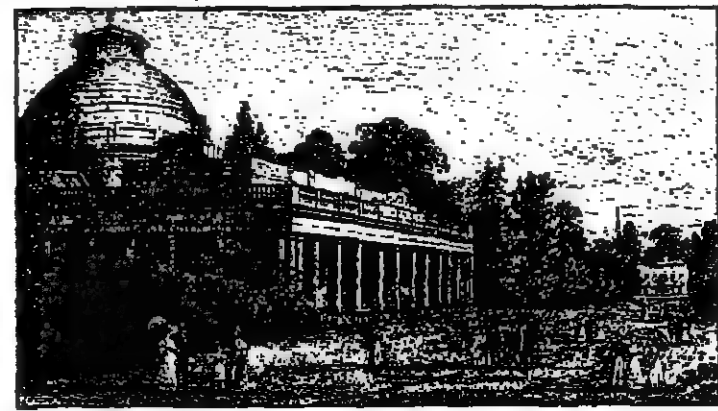
The image has been hard to shake off. People seem to forget the bone-breaking bravado of Prestbury racecourse and the cloak-and-dagger romance of the Government Communications Headquarters. As far as the rest of the nation is concerned these truths are as nothing. Cheltenham, quite simply, is dull.

And yet it would be churlish to pin all the blame on the retired colonials who made this Gloucestershire town their home from Hyderabad. After the splendour of colonial life the attractions must have appeared legion. Where else would they have found decent hunting, a first-class racecourse, excellent clubs and reliable schools; a spa with waters purported to cure not only the entire gamut of tropical diseases, but also that perennial preoccupation so dear to every Englishman:

constipation. Although the settlement goes back to Saxon times, it remained relatively unimportant until the 18th century, when the therapeutic benefits of its spring were discovered.

The visit of George III in 1788, however, brought the town into its own. Already suffering from the metabolic disorder that would lead to his eventual madness, the king was given to frequent bilious attacks. His physician prescribed a course of Cheltenham water. It was discovered that a daily pint and a half of the water was sufficient to give the king "two openings", and he was soon to be heard extolling the virtues of the spa, which relieved him of the ordeal of taking rhubarb pills.

The town expanded rapidly as eminent architects set about designing a fitting showcase for the favoured spa. Rebuilt as a residential town in the Grecian idiom, with here and there the odd Italianate or Gothic variation, Cheltenham emerged as the elegantly homogeneous Regency town it is today. Present-day



Health and wealth: the Rotunda spa at Montpellier now houses a bank

Cheltenham is a far cry from the cloyingly sodas Anglo-Indian backdrop it once was. Certainly those in need of a vindaloo fix can always find a good curry, but Cheltenham's armies of retired officers have long since been billeted to various churchyards about the town.

Nowadays there is a different sort of occupying army, a grey-suited force of executives whose regiments are building societies and advertising agencies. Most companies have established them-

selves behind the delicately wrought balconies and verandahs of the town's Regency villas. Hygeia House, for example, a spa whose medicinal properties were much admired in the 19th century, now has many other admirable properties to offer — it is home to an estate agency. And part of Papworth's tribute to the Pantheon, the Montpellier Rotunda, has become a branch of Lloyds Bank.

If commerce is big business in Cheltenham, then so, too, is

tourism. Attractively packaged in the form of town trails, costume exhibitions and horse-drawn carriage rides, history has been made digestible to even the most restive of visitors.

However, the real jewels in Cheltenham's crown, as far as the Tourist Information Centre is concerned, are the town's parks and gardens. Not for nothing has Cheltenham been dubbed "The Garden Town of England" and awarded the prestigious "Britain in Bloom" title.

There is a wide range of accommodation, from National Tourist Board listed guest houses to five-star hotels. Lyptus House (0242 224994), medium price range, is excellent value. A double room costs £44 a night with breakfast. It is also a good base from which to explore the town on foot.

Cheltenham is a base from which to tour the Cotswolds. Also within touring distance are Warwick, Berkeley and Sudley castles, the National Waterways Museum in Gloucester, the Forest of Dean, Wyke Valley, Strayford-upon-Avon, Blenheim Palace, and the upper Thames. Tourist Information Centre, Promenade, Cheltenham (0242 322878).

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Calvin Murray

Gems: C

Seeds of

Uncommen

Drawing a curtain over controversy

Changing face

In a corner of Trafalgar Square the new wing of the National Gallery is almost revealed.

Callum Murray reports

Summer in Trafalgar Square. The tourists bend their heads over maps or turn in slow circles looking for the best views for snapshots, as they do every summer. Buses and taxis jostle round the perimeter, as they do all the time.

Pigeons spatter every surface. These things do not change. But, in the north-west corner of the square, the National Gallery's Hampton site — the one that turned the Prince of Wales into the country's best-known architectural critic — has become a building at last. The Sainsbury Wing has emerged from its protective skin of scaffolding.

Eight years ago a competition was launched to find an architect and developer team to design and build an extension which was to be "supported and financed by high-quality private development on the lower front". By the end of that year, Ahrends Burton and Koralek, the architects, and Trafalgar House, the developer, had been chosen. But the assessors were not unanimous, and an agonising period began in which the high-tech building, with its semi-circular courtyard, was redesigned again and again.

By the time a public enquiry was begun, in April 1984, the scheme had sprouted a curious, masted tower on the corner nearest Trafalgar Square. It was then that the Prince of Wales saw it and said the "c" word: "What is proposed is like a monstrous carbuncle on the face of a much-loved and elegant friend."

The friend in question was the square as a whole, not just William Wilkins' existing National Gallery building of 1832-38. But the square itself was not laid out until the 1820s and, apart from Gibbs' magnificent church of St Martin-in-the-Fields of 1726, all the buildings facing on to the square post-date it, and have little to do with one another.

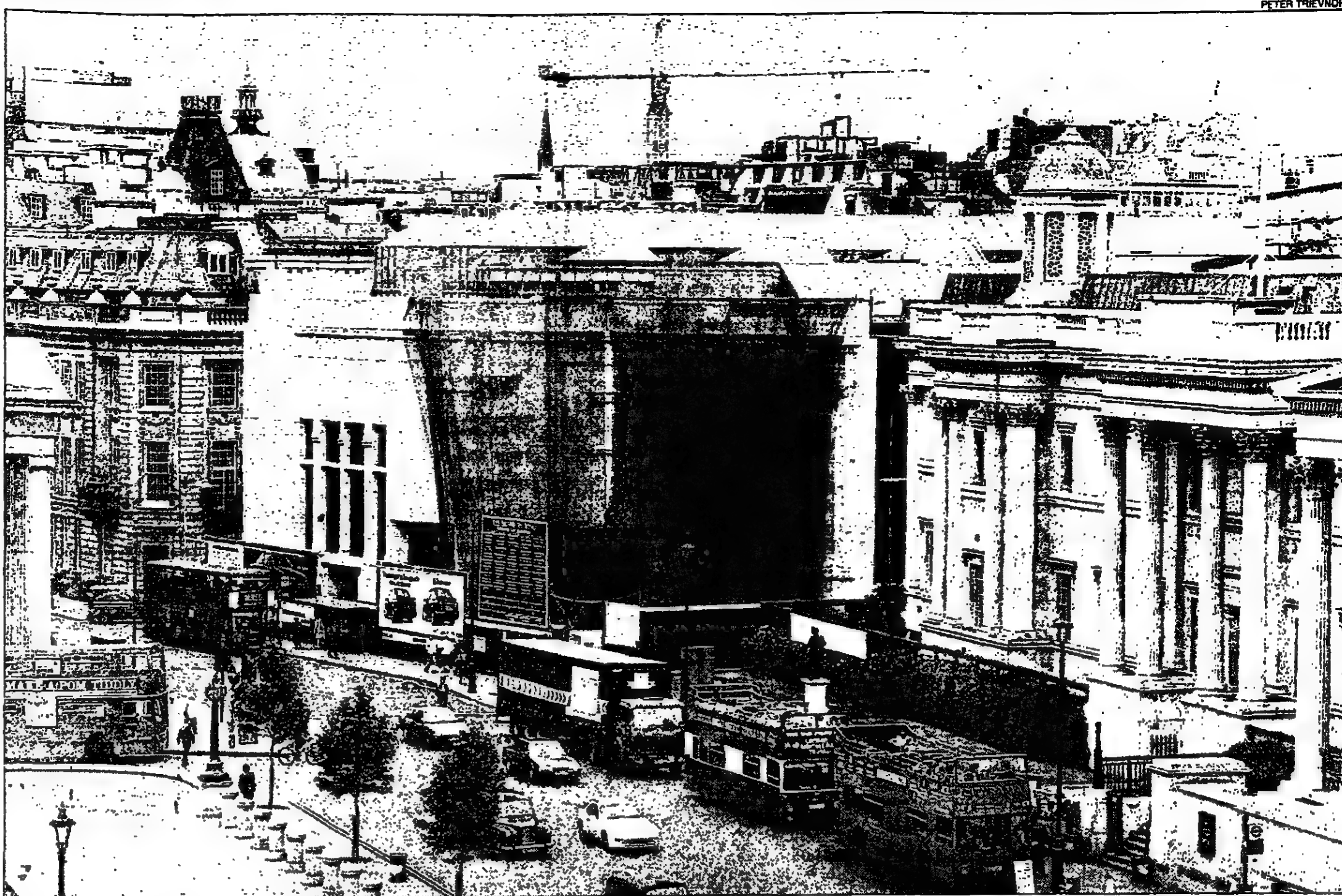
They are all, however, mildly neo-classical, and this must have been in the minds of the trustees when, in April 1985, they accepted the Sainsbury family's offer to fund the extension, and began looking for new architects. Thanks to the intervention of commerce, the fund-raising element of the brief could at last be dropped, and the architects could concentrate on the art.

The architects that the gallery's trustees came up with, in January 1986, were Venturi, Rauch and Scott Brown, of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

"The design is not pastiche, nor modernist", said the chairman of the trustees about Venturi's solution for the difficult site. "It is sensitive to Wilkins and the surroundings and shows that there is no more thoughtful architect than Robert Venturi in the world today."

In America, Mr Venturi is famous for his post-modernism, a style that combines decorative motifs from the past with the latest in construction technology. His design was neither pastiche nor modernist, it was both. It was concrete-framed, with a patent steel and glass curtain wall on the side facing the National Gallery.

It was brick-covered around the back and the other side, and it had a Portland stone front, with a cornice, and pilasters, and a column



A style neither pastiche nor modernist, but both: the Sainsbury Wing of the National Gallery finally emerges after eight years of controversy that included the Prince of Wales calling the design "a monstrous carbuncle"

with Corinthian capitals that did not support anything. It had no discipline. In a way it was anti-classical. The Royal Fine Art Commission, apparently borrowing from the Prince of Wales's phrase book, described the system of glass roof lights as "a giant greenhouse from Kew Gardens" and the main entrance as "an austere and enlarged mousehole". But the Prince gave his approval, Mr Venturi refused point-blank to tinker with the design.

The building's exterior is now all but finished, and work on the interior will continue until the winter, when the hanging of about 240 Italian Renaissance and early northern European paintings begins, ready for a public opening in the spring. In the meantime, according to the gallery, the Trafalgar Square facade and its post-modern details will remain covered by a great green net curtain, "if only to keep the pigeons off". Pigeons and classicists will have to wait until the opening for the chance to show what they think of it.

In the square, no one seems to be giving the controversial extension a second glance. In front of Nelson's Column, at a tourist information stand, I ask the assistants what the new building is, and after a moment's hesitation they tell me it is the new National Gallery extension. I ask who the architect is. They shake their heads.

"If you go into the gallery," one of them suggests, "they'll give you a slip on it."

Events in town

● **Children's pavement competition:** buy a "pitch" and packet of coloured chalks for a £1 charity donation to a fund for research into muscular dystrophy, then create a picture, using water as a theme. Judging by a panel of artists and authors at 4pm. Prizes: Brass band, Punch and Judy and Rupert Bear provide background entertainment. Light refreshments available.

Natural History Museum, Cromwell Road, London SW7 (071-938 9123). Tomorrow 1pm onwards.

● **Bromley Pageant of Motoring:** biggest one-day motor show in the world with 3,000 classic cars, stationary engines, automata, models, marquee and arena events. **Norman Park, Bromley, Kent.** Tomorrow 9.30am-5.30pm, £3, child £1. Car Park £3 — or use the free park-and-ride scheme with pick-up points at town car parks or at Locks Bottom.

● **The London Hospital 25th anniversary street fair:** in aid of the hospital development fund, with lots of entertainment including sports, competitions, animal rides, a tombola and stalls. **Battle of Britain display, music by Billy Ocean and The Ebony Steel Band, plus guest appearances by Roald Dahl and Leonard Fenton.** The London Hospital, Whitechapel, London E1 (071-377 7377). Today 1.2noon-7.00pm.

● **Blackheath summer kite festival:** annual event with stunt flying, formation and fighting kites, parachuting teddy bears and kite trading stalls. **Blackheath, London SE3.** Today, tomorrow, 10am-6pm, free.

● **Margam festival 96:** month-long festival begins tomorrow in Margam Park with a variety of entertainments including magicians and classic cars. Highlight of the day is a concert at the Oratory, with the Sydney Welsh Choir and the West Glamorgan Youth Band, triple winners of the British championship, at 7.30pm. Numerous musical and other

events throughout the coming months. **Margam Park, Swansea.** Tomorrow until July 28 (information and booking 0792 470002 or 0639 882266).

● **Devon Guild of Weavers, Spinners and Dyers:** biennial exhibition. Members' work on display includes a wide range of natural fibre articles, from hand-spun shawls to tapestry wall-hangings. Also, the "Spindle to Loom" exhibition, showing the evolution of the fibres, plus a variety of technique demonstrations. Sale of selected works. **The Chapter House, Exeter Cathed-**

ral, Tues. July 3 to July 11. Closed Fri 6; Mon-Sat, 10am-5pm, Sun 2pm-4pm.

● **Peterborough Festival:** recitals and concerts every day at the cathedral and other venues. **Peterborough, Cambridgeshire.** Mon-Sun. Further information from the Cathedral Shop (0733 555096).

● **Balloon and flower festival:** hot-air balloonists congregate for flights and competitions. On the ground, the largest flower marquees outside Chelsea. **Souhampton, Fri-Sun, early morning to late afternoon.**

● **Cutty Sark Tall Ships Race:** a chance to see 80 or so vessels at Queen Anne's Battery, and the largest ships in Plymouth Sound, before the big race, which starts next Saturday at 3pm. **Plymouth, Devon, Wed-Sat.**

● **The Health Show:** all aspects of natural health including alternative medicine, remedies, and therapies, plus sport, exercise programmes, fitness, and health food. **Olympia 2, Hammersmith Road, Kensington, London W14.** Thur-Sun, 11am-7pm, £4, child £2.

JUDY FROSHAUG

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Gems: Columbia Road

Seeds of discontent

THERE is only one retail flower market in London, and it only opens on Sunday mornings. But Columbia Road, Hackney, would be a hard act to follow. With wisteria for a fiver, clematis for £4, and a tray of lupins for £3.50, it is a place of bargains for all.

But now its popularity is causing problems. Parking has reached saturation point and, as traders set up their stalls earlier and earlier, residents are beginning to feel that Columbia Road is a market they could do without.

"They say it ought to move or close," says Jeremy Shaw, a Tower Hamlets councillor.

Mr Shaw organised a meeting between the police and residents, and environmental health officers have been called in to monitor noise levels. "If they compile evidence," says Mr Shaw says, "we will prosecute."

For their part, the stallholders say they were unaware of the turn in events, and a committee of traders, shop owners and sympathetic residents has been hurriedly formed.

The traders say they were not invited to join the meeting with the police, and are angry that the council began its initial investigations in April and May. "This is the time of year when we sell bedding plants," Dennis Madden, vice chairman of the traders' committee, "People turn up at 6am in order to get an early start in their gardens. Are we supposed to turn them away?"

Will the market have to close? Happily, as the traders say they are willing to discuss improvements, Mr Shaw thinks not.

NICOLA MURPHY



Uncommon market: but residents want to close down Columbia Road

The paintings at large are *Fishermen trawling a net from a sailing boat on the river Maas near the Castle of Loevestein*, by Saloman van Ruysdael, said to be worth £225,000; *Alpheus pursuing Arethusa*, by Moyses van Uytenbroeck, £95,000; *A woman seated at an inn*, by van Brecklenkam, £28,000; and *A still life with fish*, by Alexander Adriaenssen, £7,000.

**One man's
another's**

**How best to counter
Jesse Helms?
American artists
have met to plan
their resistance, as
Holly Hill reports**

Art is a
social
act. It
can't
be
done
in
a
vacuum.
It's
about
the
world
we
live
in.
It's
about
the
people
we
live
with.
It's
about
the
values
we
live
by.
It's
about
the
future
we
live
for.

Congressman James Madison spent the summer of 1979 drafting America's Bill of Rights. Jesse Helms spent the summer of 1980 trying to repeal the NEA, trying to dismantle it in 1981 according to the wishes of certain conservative cultural leaders. Last summer, all theatre artists, administrators and board members met to discuss how to save themselves and their colleagues from congressional censorship.

The fourth conference in Madison was a bi-annual event of the Theatre Communications Group, the national organization for non-profit-making theatre in America—gathered constituents throughout the country to consider this year's theme: "The Artist's Role in a Changing World".

Special panel discussions and workshops attended by a year of community shocked by a year of slurring up barbedoes against black artists.

American religious fundamentalists and right-wing political extremists have lost considerable credibility and power over the last few years through a series of events.

They range from defeat over participation in prayer and against the teaching of evolution in public schools and on a constitutional amendment to ban the desecration of the American flag, to the public disgrace of ministers such as James Dobson and Jim Bakker.

Selecting for new ways to raise money and funds they have selected the art world as their new enemy. The arts community has been naive in believing that it is a victim, unaware and unprepared in a country whose primary heritage is strong, and over-confident about the power of a federal support agency, the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) that was created only 25 years ago.

The battle began last summer with denunciations of two photographic exhibitions—one by Andres Serrano which included a photograph of a crucifix in a jar of urine, and another by Robert Mapplethorpe which included photographs of naked male and homosexual and neo-masochistic acts. Fundamentalist, protest organizations sent mailings to sympathetic cities and politicians to let them know no dollars could be used to support such "morally outrageous works".

After protest letters to the NEA, signed by 30 senators and 107 congressmen, and cancellation of a new Memphis show, the North Carolina Republican Senator Jesse Helms unshipped the arts community during debate on the NEA re-authorization. He used until the summer of 1981 almost every word to push through an amendment which banned censorship.

The final bill agreed by both houses of Congress forbade the NEA to support art that displayed "depictions of sadomasochistic, homosexual, the sexual exploitation of children, or individuals engaging in acts," when the art in question lacks "serious literary, artistic, political or scientific merit". All NEA grant recipients are now required to sign a pledge to

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How best to counter Jesse Helms?

American artists have met to plan their resistance, as Holly Hill reports

Congressman James Madison spent the summer of 1983 drafting America's Bill of Rights. Jesse Helms spent the summer of 1983 trying to dismantle it, at least according to the cultural leaders. Last August 40 theatre artists, administrators and board members met to discuss how to save themselves and their arts colleagues from congressional censorship.

The four-day conference in Massachusetts—a biannual event of the Theatre Communications Group, the national organization for non-profit-making theatre in America—gathered constituents across the country to consider the year's theme: "The Artist's Role in a Changing World."

Speakers, panel discussions and workshops addressed an arts community shocked by a year of throwing up barricades against legislative and religious fundamentalism.

also not fight for considerable money for power over the last few years through a series of events.

This rage from defeat over participation in prayer at J against the teaching of evolution in public schools and on a constitutional amendment to ban the placement of the American flag to the public display of monuments such as James Jackson and Jim Bakker.

Sending for new ways to rally was and finally they have selected the new world as their new enemy. The new community has been naive in believing that it is often uninvolved and unappreciated in a country whose puritan heritage is strong, and over-confident about its power as a federal authority, the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) that was created only 25 years ago.

The battle began last summer with denunciations of two photographic exhibitions — one by Andres Serrano which included a photograph of a crucifix in a jar of urine, and another by Robert Mapplethorpe which included photographs of naked men and homosexual and sadomasochistic sex. Fundamentalist groups organized mass mailings to newspapers, cities and politicians and how to leaders could be used to support the "morally offensive" trust.

After protest letters to the NEA, filed by 30 senators and 107

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 nity during debate on the NEA
 re-appropriations. He wanted un-
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 pass through an amendment which
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 tion of children, or individuals
 engaged in sex acts", when the art in
 question lacks "serious literary,
 artistic, political or scientific
 value". All NEA grant recipients
 are now required to sign a pledge to
 abstain.
 The National Endowment for the

CENSORSHIP ROW

One man's taste is another's poison

How best to counter
Jesse Helms?
American artists
have met to plan
their resistance, as
Holly Hill reports

Congressman James Madison spent the summer of 1979 drafting America's Bill of Rights. Senator Jesse Helms spent the summer of 1989 trying to dismantle it, at least according to America's cultural leaders. Last week, 420 theatre artists, administrators and board members met to discuss how to save themselves and other arts colleagues from congressional censorship.

The four-day conference in Massachusetts — a bi-annual event of the Theatre Communications Group, the national organisation for non-profit-making theatre in America — gathered constituents throughout the country to consider this year's theme: "The Artist's Role in a Changing World".

Speeches, panel discussions and workshops addressed an arts community shocked by a year of throwing up barricades against fierce attacks.

American religious fundamentalists and right-wing political extremists have lost considerable credibility and power over the last few years through a series of events. These range from defeat over participation in prayer and against the teaching of evolution in public schools and on a constitutional amendment to ban the defacement of the American flag, to the public disgrace of ministers such as James Swagart and Jim Bakker.

Searching for new ways to rally votes and funds, they have selected the arts world as their new enemy. The arts community has been naive in forgetting that it is often unwelcome and unappreciated in a country whose puritan heritage is strong, and over-confident about the power of a federal support agency, the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA), that was created only 25 years ago.

The battle began last summer with denunciations of two photographic exhibitions — one by Andres Serrano which included a photograph of a crucifix in a jar of urine, and another by Robert Mapplethorpe which included photographs of naked children and homosexual and sado-masochistic acts. Fundamentalist groups organised mass mailings to sympathetic citizens and politicians, asking how tax dollars could be used to support such "morally outrageous trash".

After protest letters to the NEA, signed by 30 senators and 107 congressmen, and cancellation of a major Mapplethorpe show, North Carolina Republican Senator Jesse Helms ambushed the arts community during debate on 1990 NEA fund-appropriations. He waited until the senate was almost empty to push through an amendment which instituted censorship.

The final bill agreed by both houses of congress forbade the NEA to support art that displayed "depictions of sado-masochism, homo-eroticism, the sexual exploitation of children, or individuals engaged in sex acts", when the art in question lacks "serious literary, artistic, political or scientific value". All NEA grant recipients are now required to sign a pledge to this effect.

Arts is currently up for congressional reauthorisation for five years. In the national debate, those who want to abolish the NEA altogether are pitted against those who want it to continue without restrictions. In the middle are most politicians, including President Bush and others who were initially on the no-restrictions side, but who feel pressed during an election year not to fund the NEA without obscenity prohibitions.

Delegates to the Theatre Communications Group conference agreed that they must brace themselves for a long war over freedom of expression. Yolanda King, the actress-director-producer daughter of Martin Luther King Jr, drew applause when she said "the irony is that the walls of repression have come down in Eastern Europe while they are rising in America."

"As the granddaughter, daughter, niece, cousin, and sister of Baptist ministers, my beliefs are fundamental," she added. "My belief isn't with Senator Helms's taste, but with his efforts to impose that taste on the rest of America."

In an eloquent talk covering his career, playwright Athol Fugard spoke not only about overt censorship but about the self-censorship that can creep in when an artist feels threatened by "thought police". Fugard concluded: "I have a sense that your society has arrived at an extremely critical point. You have pent-up forces that are as dark and dangerous as any that threatened our society. The arts are a psychological survival kit, keeping alive decency and hope."

Among other presentations aimed at setting the American dilemma in an international perspective were an interview with Czechoslovakia's first minister of culture, Milan Lukes, and an account, by critic Eileen Blumental, of the Khmer Rouge's effort to obliterate Cambodian court dance, and its post-Khmer reconstruction.

Panelists explored an exploration of the Mapplethorpe controversy as seen by a curator who resigned when her museum cancelled the exhibition, the director of the space that then displayed the photographs, and the president of the Contemporary Arts Centre in Cincinnati, Ohio, which, for its Mapplethorpe show, has become the first gallery in America to be indicted for the content of an exhibition.

Conference participants were treated to a presentation by Herb Chao Gunther, director of a non-profit-making advertising agency. His media campaigns against right-wing and commercial interests have contributed to the defeat of a nominee to the supreme court and the agreement by canned-tuna companies to stop using fishing methods that kill dolphins. "Advocacy is about making democracy work," Gunther counselled, "about being in a society based on competing ideas. We need to set the agenda and understand that it serves our enemies' interest not to fight, so stand up and get involved."

The conference concluded with members voting unanimously for proposals to unite with other representatives of the arts to battle for the National Endowment and against all forms of censorship.

To the question raised in the keynote address by the historian Charles L. Mee Jr: "Shall we go down in history as the most easily-intimidated artists and producers and boards of directors the world has ever known?", the answer from constituents of Theatre Communications Group was clearly a resounding "no".

THEATRE

A stage for second thoughts

Nicholas Hytner, currently directing *King Lear*, describes how observation of textual changes has given a new slant to the play

Imagine a conversation: Burbage: So where does *Lear* go wrong? Is he mad to divide the kingdom in three? Shakespeare: No, no, no! He has no sons and no grandsons and his sons-in-law are only waiting for him to die to start a civil war. You could see the division of the kingdom as an astute political move under the circumstances. Burbage: But he's mad as a meat-axe right from the start. Shakespeare: Well, maybe. He thinks he can exchange power for love — the spontaneous lunacy of an old man. Burbage: It's not clear. You know what the audience is like — they think it's the end of the world, go bananas. You need to rewrite my first speech, show them which the mad bit is. Shakespeare: Why make it so obvious? You're obsessed by the puns. Burbage: I'm the one who has to go out there every afternoon and do it. Rewrite the speech.

It is a comforting actor's fantasy to imagine that the Globe company talked as we do, that they had the same worries and nagged the playwright for the same sort of changes. Our fantasies now have scholarly endorsement.

About half of Shakespeare's plays were published individually, in quarto editions, shortly after their first performances. All of them were published in the collected folio edition, after his death. The two versions often differ substantially, but until recently it was thought that they were both imperfect transmissions of some ideal original. It has been up to individual editors to collate them, and produce plays as close as possible to the imagined ideal.

All this has now changed with the idea that Shakespeare revised his plays. Most playwrights do. Plays change in rehearsal, and very often they change during a run of performances. The folio

plays, therefore, seem to offer Shakespeare's second thoughts.

King Lear is the most heavily revised play in the canon: the folio cuts 300 lines from the quarto, adds 100 new ones, and includes hundreds of small but important changes. Three years ago the New Oxford Shakespeare finally broke with tradition and instead of presenting a single, conflated *King Lear*, published both of them.

So the first decision any company approaching *King Lear* has to make is which play to do. At Stratford we set out to do the folio play, and the first major folio addition is the subject of our imagined conversation. *Lear* is carving up his kingdom:

"... Our son of Cornwall, And you our no less loving son of Albany,

We have this hour a constant will to publish

Our daughters' several dowries, that future strife May be prevented now."

The lines are familiar enough, but the fact is that they were added after the first run of performances.

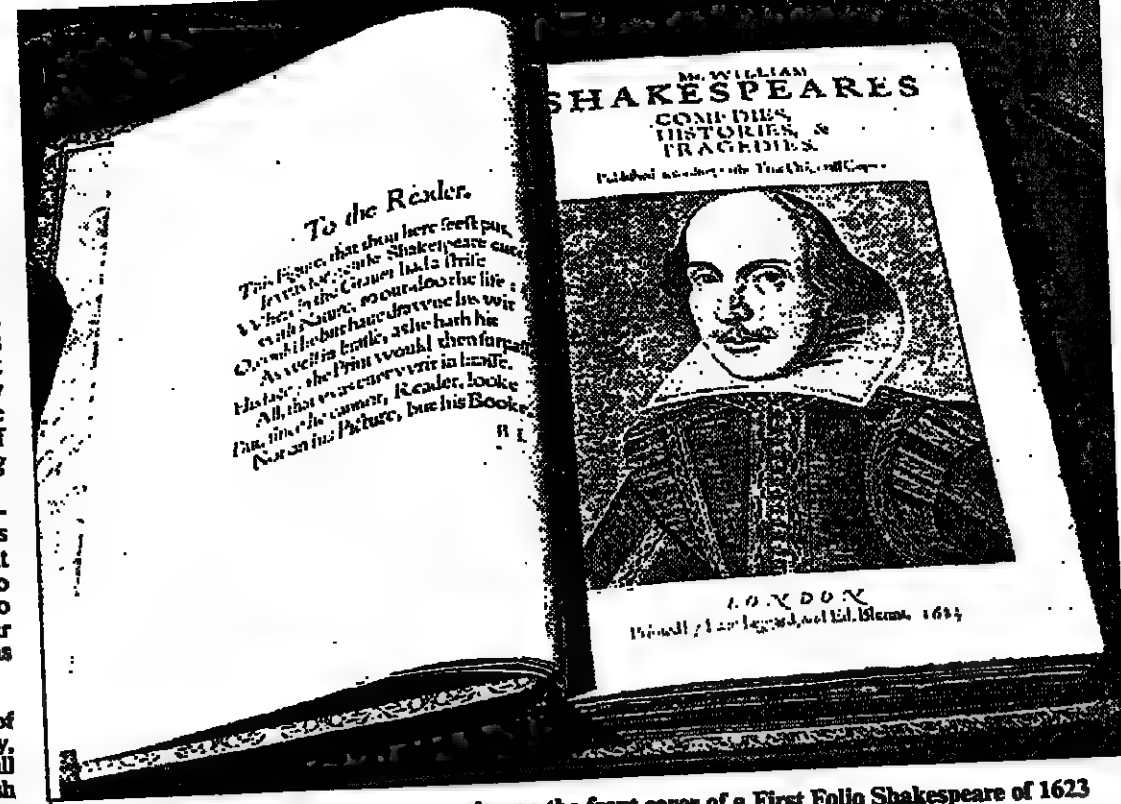
Later in the play other additions hammer the point home: *Lear's* son-in-laws are at each other's throats. His overriding concern is to prevent future strife, but the appointment of a single heir would guarantee the disaffection of the other. You cannot escape the conclusion that in the second *King Lear*, Shakespeare was set on clarifying where *Lear's* madness lies — in a desperate confusion of love and authority: "Tell me, my daughters, Which of you shall we say doth love us most...?"

Shortly after this poisonous demand, Goneril and Regan, the two elder daughters, are left alone on stage. In the first *King Lear*, Goneril says:

"You see how full of changes his age is. The observation we have made of it hath not been little."

The second *King Lear* cuts one word, and changes everything:

"... The observation we have



Martin Droeshout's famous engraving on the front cover of a First Folio Shakespeare of 1623

made of it hath been little." In the first play, the two daughters have been watching the ageing *Lear* like hawks. In the second play their observation "hath been little". They live away from the court with their husbands but they are bounced into action and they act "I th' heat". The second play is consistent about this. An important scene is added for Goneril and her husband Albany after *Lear* has stormed out of her house, which further insists on the spontaneity of the catastrophic eruptions of family tension.

We have not taken all the folio changes lying down. Our whole purpose has been to challenge them, to see what can be learnt from observing the process of composition. I suppose it is as close as we will ever get to having Shakespeare in the rehearsal room. But the closer we feel we are to the right way to play a scene, the more we can justify the alterations. There is a cut in the first scene between Edmund and Gloucester, here printed in italics:

Gloucester: He cannot be such a monster —

Edmund: Nor is not, sure.

Gloucester: — To his father thus so tenderly and entirely loves him — Heaven and earth! Edmund, seek him out.

Norman Rodway, who plays Gloucester, found the cut lines at first invaluable. At the time we were working towards a weak and sentimental Gloucester, prey to easy manipulation.

Gradually Edmund's manipulation of Gloucester developed in a way that called for a Gloucester apparently more in command of his household and an Edmund who achieved what he wanted through humility and acceptance of his own inferiority. The quarto lines became spurious. We had been using them for five weeks but last week lost them again.

I cannot tell how much audiences will notice that we are performing the folio play. Those familiar with now-discredited editions will miss the odd line which

has been dragged in from the quarto. And I have to confess that there is one significant cut (of the astonishing mock-trial of the joint-stools) that we have rejected. Our rehearsals, however, have been hugely enriched by the rewriting of Albany's part after the readjustment of Kent's part after the storm, and the feeling that we had a tiny insight into the way Shakespeare worked.

And that's the rub. *King Lear* is so immense that a company will gladly seize on anything that appears to allow some access to it. Faced with questions like "Who am I?", "What are you?", "Why should a dog, a horse, a rat have life, And thou no breath at all?", one's imaginative capacity is often rendered frankly inadequate. In this play, the world spins out of control, and we have to stage it. The textual scholars have opened one small window and we have looked in gratefully.

King Lear is in preview at the Royal Shakespeare Theatre, Stratford. Tel: 0789 295623

More a farce in fancy dress

THEATRE
She's in Your Hands!
Royal Exchange,
Manchester

IN THE early days of the Royal Court, Noel Coward tried his hand at adapting Feydeau's *Occupe-toi d'Amélie*: he changed the title to *Look After Lulu* and, judging by contemporary reports, made a real hash of the business. A few years later John Mortimer's version of *A Flea in Her Ear* provided the National with an unforgettable hit, but the Old Vic revival last year failed to work. Undoubtedly, the Feydeau farce is a very devil to get right, and this latest attempt at *Occupe-toi*, adapted (ominous word) by Robert Cogo-Fawcett and Braham Murray, caught the wild, dangerous dare-devilment of the style only in fits and starts.

The first act is quite a labour to

sit through. Marcel asks Etienne to look after Amélie while he goes off on his military service. Etienne pretends to be engaged to her in order to inherit a million francs; Amélie fails to resist the blandishments of a Slavonic prince. Later, Etienne and Amélie find themselves waking up in the same bed and Amélie is revealed to be a gullible victim of a marriage they suppose to be a trick, but which turns out to be real.

This marriage scene is the funniest in the play, with Amélie's dreadful coterie of friends fascinated by the lump on the mayor's forehead. Feydeau liked to give characters socially embarrassing problems, such as cleft palates and bad breath, and here the wedding guests creep boldly forward to peer at the mayor, whom they suppose to be an actor, to decide if his lump is false. The humour is not so far removed from laughing at the idiots in *Bedlam*, but it is hypocritical to

pretend the incident is not comic. If only the rest had been as enjoyable. Gregory Hersov's direction is fast, and Richard McCabe's Marcel, stamping his feet into carpet slippers, howling joyful noises while his heart despairs, is suitably furious. Lorraine Ashbourne makes Amélie an uninteresting cocotte; a character more of a spur to comic reaction in others than comical in her own right.

Of the rest, only Naomi Buch's stylish Countess and Colin Procter's jovial, if one-joke, Dutchman stand out. The main trouble is that the cast have been encouraged to regard their characters as jokes, whereas the art of playing Feydeau is to suggest that they see themselves as thoroughly normal citizens who happen to be trapped on an escalator racing at 60 miles an hour. Ignoring this, the farce becomes *Allô! Allô!* in fancy-dress.

JEREMY KINGSTON



She's in Your Hands! : Richard McCabe and Lorraine Ashbourne

THEATRE
A Single Man
Greenwich

TWO-and-a-half decades of homosexual pugnacity have no doubt made inroads into Christopher Isherwood's *A Single Man*, dating the novel in superficial respects. George, the Californian Englishman at its centre, might no longer feel impelled to respond with uninterested monosyllables when told that the man to whom he is as good as married has been killed in a road crash. That sort of love has become less nervous about speaking its name.

Again, this male widow would be less likely these days to be patronised by his Los Angeles neighbour, the permanently pregnant Mrs Strunk, as blithely as Isherwood and his adaptor, Michael Michaelian, contrive to suggest. "Here we have a misfit, debarré forever from the best things of life, to be pitied, not blamed": so Alec McCowen's George sums up what he calls her technique of "annihilation by blandness".

Yet in more important ways, time has been friendly to the book and the play derived from it. Homosexuality is only one aspect of what now seems a sensitive, touching picture of a more general desolation. If a less defiantly unsentimental actor than McCowen were playing the expatriate professor, it might be different. But anyone should be able to identify with so feisty a struggle to stay emotionally afloat.

The adaptation has its awkward moments, partly because Michaelian is determined to be comprehensively faithful to his original. McCowen sometimes breaks off in the middle of a conversation to comment on it, twisting his head or walking into a spotlight as he does so. A waitress conveniently appears, just so he can tell her of his fears. Michaelian has not altogether solved the problem of making rumination theatrically plausible.

Yet he and Waris Hussein's cast have done something more difficult: they have made rumination gripping. The play maintains its hold both when something is happening — George haranguing his class, George visiting the

woman cancer-patient who tried to steal his lover — and when something is not quite happening.

Nor is it a depressing evening. At its core is a marvellously funny scene in which the lonely Englishman shares bottle after bottle with a still lonelier Englishwoman. It is difficult for a face simultaneously to sag and brighten; but that is what Rosemary Martin's does. As the talk turns nostalgically to the Cotswolds and Cotswold pubs, her voice becomes shrilly genteel. The impression left is of Lady Bracknell bizarrely accoutred in a flame-coloured kaftan, tipsy on spiked cucumber sandwiches. But it is McCowen who holds things together. His authority does not falter, whatever he is asked. He can be genial, grumpy, truculent, ironic, or a blend of them all. He can passionately promote what appears to be his authority, joint credo, their faith in love, life and commitment to the here-and-now, and a kind of blankness, bleaker than open grief, can suddenly ice over his face. It is time he was universally recognised for what he surely is, a major actor, perhaps even a great one.

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ESC 1

impersonations of a raft of old Hollywood stars, from Carmen Miranda and Bette Davis to James Cagney and

impersonations of a rift of old Hollywood stars, from Carmen Miranda and Bette Davis to James Cagney and Jimmy Durante. (1)

11.25 **Hale & Pace.** Hit and miss comedy sketches from Gareth and Norman, who can usually be relied upon to exceed the boundaries of good taste. (1)

11.55 **Tour of Duty: Angel of Mercy.** Series following the exploits of a platoon of young recruits in Vietnam. While preparing for the Tet Offensive, Goldman is injured and sent to hospital.

12.50am **Film: Death Ray 2000 (1979)** starring Robert Logan, Ann Tunkel and Maggie Cooper. A made-for-television secret agent adventure, the pilot for the 1979-1980 television series *At War Called Sloane*, in which Sloane is assigned to track down and recover a device in the hands of international arms dealers which is powerful enough to destroy the world. Directed by Lee H. Katzin.

2.30 **T and T: The Drop.** The adventures of a detective and a newly-qualified lawyer. T and T are sent to a 14-year-old accused of dealing in crack has been framed, and decide to find the real dealer. Starring Mr T.

3.00 **Film: Xanadu (1980)** starring Olivia Newton-John, Gene Kelly and Michael Beck. Embarrassing musical in which Kira, daughter of Zeus, is sent to Earth to help mere mortals make their dreams come true. Directed by Robert Greenwald.

5.00 **ITN Morning News** with Guy DeFayed. Ends at 6.00

trying to reconcile his inspiration with an increasing inability to realise his

trying to reconcile his inspiration with an increasing inability to realise his ideas on canvas.

11.50 Billy the Fish. The Vic cartoon character playing with ageing goateeping poveries makes his television debut

11.55 Burning Embers. *Flights of Men and Women.*

● With its admirably non-sexist title the Tony Benn roadshow moves to *Rumrunner*, for ideas on the development of the site of Magna Carta. Set determined to distract us from the talk as much as possible, the director Rob Walker allows his cameramen to stray into the frame and makes no attempt to close the noise from the passing traffic. The artificiality of the enterprise is further underlined by the necessity for the participants to carry hand mikes. But shut your eyes and the chat is worth catching. As usual there are too many people competing for air, such as Benn and a hardly impartial chairman. The discussion on human rights, past and present, still throws up some stimulating points with Benn himself and the historian Dr Jonathan Clark emerging as the leading protagonists. Clark's cool and deflating analysis effectively counterpoints such wider flights of Bennery as his contention that Britain's written constitution is the Treaty of Rome

12.55am Film: Flash and Fantasy (1943, b/w). A comparison of three films, each with a twist in the tale. In the first, starring Betty Field and Robert Cummings, a young woman becomes disillusioned with her looks and resorts to wearing a Mardi Gras mask. In the second, with Edward G. Robinson and Thomas Mitchell, a pessimist predicts that a man will commit murder and, in the third, starring Charles Boyer and Barbara Stanwyck, a circus performer dreams that he dies after a tragic fall. Directed by Julien Duvivier. Ends at 2.40

Figure 1

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Figure 1. The effect of the concentration of the *Agrobacterium* suspension on the transformation efficiency of *Agrobacterium* strains. The number of transformed cells was determined by the number of colonies obtained on the selective medium. The results are the mean of three independent experiments. Error bars represent standard deviation. * indicates a significant difference ($p < 0.05$) between the control and the treated groups.

[illegible]

BBC 1

- 6.45 Open University
8.55 Playdays 9.15 Making Sense of... Compassion. Donald Reeves examines the meaning of compassion (r)
9.30 This is the Day. A simple religious service from the National Garden Festival in Gateshead
10.00 Bazaar. Advice on returning faulty goods (r) 10.25 Teatime Nobody's Word for It. Science for children series (r)
10.50 Business Matters. Philip Tatham examines outplacement for redundant workers (r) 11.15 The Big E. Environment series (r) 11.40 When in France. Last in the French language series
12.05 See Hear! The magazine for the deaf travels to France with a party from the RNID to meet a French deaf group. With sign-language and subtitles.
12.30 Country File. Investigates the transportation of horses to Europe for consumption. Wales. Farming in Wales
1.00 News with Chris Lowe. Followed by On the Record. Then Hansard looks at the future role of NATO in Europe
2.00 EastEnders. (r). (Ceelex)
2.55 All Creatures Great and Small. Still filling gaps in the schedules, the likeable Yorkshire vet series based on the novels of James Herriot (r). (Ceelex). Northern Ireland. The battle of the Boyne
3.45 World Cup Grandstand. West Germany play Czechoslovakia in the third quarter-final in the daunting Stadio Giuseppe Meazza in Milan. Will the skill of the Czech stars Skuhravac and Kubice be enough to beat the so far all conquering West Germans, who have an irresistible mixture of cohesion and flair, ably marshalled by their captain, Matthias? England could meet the winners.

NB: If the game goes into extra time the programmes following may be subject to change
6.00 Cartoon
6.10 Festival. Bill Oddie, known first as an ornithologist and second as a comedian, presents a programme that he starts in Brecon on the edge of the Cotswolds at the annual village fair weekend. (Ceelex)
6.45 News with Chris Lowe. Weather
7.00 Blackadder (L). Last in the series of repeats of the cult comedy starring Rowan Atkinson as the conniving Elizabethan courtier Blackadder, tonight having the misfortune to be kidnapped
7.30 World Cup Grandstand. England v Cameroon
● At the start of the World Cup England's chances of making quarter-finals seemed slim and they looked ever sadder after tepid displays in the group matches which produced only one win and just two goals. England's dogged display against the more skilful Belgians, crowned by a goal in the last minute of extra time, suddenly changed everything. Cameroon, the



Paul Gascoigne: a spur to victory? (7.30pm)

shock team of the tournament but without four suspended players, are there for the taking and a semi-final place seems likely. Let us hope to do not have to be decided by a penalty shoot-out. As they did with the Belgian game, both BBC1 and ITV are transmitting the match live. The pictures are the same, supplied by Italian television, so it comes down to whether you prefer to have the match on the BBC's Desmond Lynam, Jimmy Hill and company or the opposition team headed by Brian Moore, Graham Taylor and Ron Atkinson.
10.00 News with Martin Lewis. Weather
10.15 That's Life! Esther Rantzen with more investigations and mishaps
11.00 Heart of the Matter: Where No Birds Sing. The programme looks at the controversy raging in Italy between those who like to shoot anything with wings and those who see the level of slaughter as excessive. Birds migrate from North Africa over Italy but fewer and fewer are managing to get through. The Italian government held a referendum on the issue but, partly because of a vigorous pro-hunting lobby, insufficient numbers voted to make it count. Joan Bakewell reports on the continuing decline of the birds in Italy and the controversy that surrounds the killing
11.35 You and 92: You and Your Money. Alan Watson and David Taveira examine how 1992 could affect savings, borrowings and investments. Northern Ireland: The Championship 12.00 World Championship Motocross
12.10am The Sky at Night. Patrick Mckay talks to Bruce Hardie of the British Astronomical Association about the sunspots. There is also a visit to the Swedish solar telescope in La Palma
12.30 Mahabharat. Part 12 (r). Northern Ireland 12.50am You and 92 1.25 Close 1.10 Weather



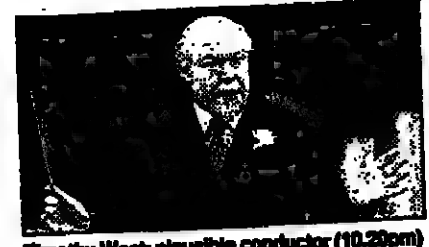
Tony La Bianca and Shirley Stoker (10.45pm)

years ago is only now getting its place on British network television. It does not feature much in the standard reference books and nor does its director, Leonard Kastle, who also wrote the screenplay, based the story on the real case of the Lonelyheist Murders for which the couple were executed in 1951. Most screen versions glorify their subjects. The real Bonnie and Clyde were nothing like as attractive as Faye Dunaway and Warren Beatty. Kastle's achievement was to present his leading characters more as less than they were. Martha (Tony La Bianca) is thin and pathetic with a collection of wings to cover his badness. United in love and crime, they evade and murder ageing women. The film charts their grisly progress in sombre black and white images and is miles removed from the traditional Hollywood treatment in which evil is acceptable as long as there is a redemptive in the final reel. Ends at 12.40am (Ceelex)

ITV LONDON

- 6.00 TV-am
8.00 Anne Diamond on Sunday. This week's edition of the current affairs programme includes a live link-up to Red Square for a report on the 28th Soviet Communist party congress. In the studio Judge Pickles and Eve Pollard review the newspapers
9.25 Film: The Computer Virus. Tom Tonnies (1970) Russell, Cesar Romero and Joe Flynn. Part one of a Disney adventure about a group of college students who stumble upon an illegal gambling syndicate. Directed by Robert Butler
10.15 The Campbells. Canadian adventures of a pioneering Scottish family
10.45 Link. Peter White looks at jokes told at the expense of disabled people and talks to disabled comedians Jacqui Peach and Alan Sutherland about making jokes on the subject of their own disabilities
11.00 Morning Worship from Millom Baptist Church in Cumbria
12.00 Visions. Nick Stuart hosts another edition of the religious magazine
12.30 The Care Bears. Animated fun
1.00 News with Sue Carpenter. Weather
1.10 Out of Town. Series which looks at traditional aspects of rural life, presented by Jack Hargreaves
1.40 Survival: How Do They Know? John Strappell narrates a documentary which asks to what extent animals' behaviour patterns are inherited rather than simply learnt from their parents (r)
2.10 The Big Valley. Western drama series starring Barbara Stanwick, chronicling the lives of a Californian ranching family in the 1870s
3.15 The Royal Tour. Alastair Stewart reports on the first visit of the Queen's and the Duke of Edinburgh's to Iceland, before going on to Canada

3.45 Film: The Magnificent Seven (1960) starring Steve McQueen and Yul Brynner. The granddaddy of all revenge Westerns with a poor Mexican village narrowly being able to afford seven gunslayers to take on an awful lot more bad dudes in black hats. Not only are the shootouts exciting, but in between times the film builds up the different characters and makes them both believable and sympathetic. Starring score by Elmer Bernstein. Directed by John Sturges
6.10 News with Sue Carpenter. Weather
6.15 LWT News and weather
6.25 Appeal by Hugh Gordon on behalf of Lingfield Hospital School
6.30 Highway. Sir Harry Secombe visits Barra in the Hebrides
7.00 World Cup 90. The last of the four quarter-finals features the surprise package of the tournament, Cameroon, the first African nation to reach this stage of the competition, against England. Having already beaten Argentina, Romania and Colombia, Cameroon should not be dismissed by anyone, least of all Bobby Robson, although their poor disciplinary record means that several of their top players will be suspended for this game. The commentator at the Stadio Olimpico, Naples, is Brian Moore with comment from Graham Taylor and Ron Atkinson
NB: If the event of extra time and penalties being played, the following programme times will be subject to change
10.00 News with Sue Carpenter. Weather
10.15 LWT Weather
10.20 Broomfield
● The ever-reliable Timothy West recreates his stage impersonation of the conductor in the entertainment by Caryll Brahms and Ned Sherrin given before a student audience. As well as delivering with huge relish Beethoven's scathing one-liners, West makes a



Timothy West plausible conductor (10.20pm)

plausible stab at conducting the Hallé Orchestra in a series of musical excerpts which are, maddeningly, not identified. The show's other main ingredient is Terry-Thomas, Beethoven's former secretary, who delivers a mainly reverent narrative and sportily acts as a lead to the great men's barbs. These come thick and fast, Toscanini as "a glorified Italian band master" and Adrian Boult as "positively reeking of Horlicks". West's portrait embraces the lovable monster and champion of Mozart and Delius, while offering hints of a troubled private life peppered by marital difficulties and sporadic battles with the tax man
11.55 Film: Die! Die! My Darling (1964) starring Talulah Bankhead, wondrously over-the-top in her last film, and Stefanie Powers. A visit to her dead fiancé's mother turns into a nightmare for Powers when the crazed woman takes her captive, hoping to mould her into the perfect wife for her son should the pair meet up again in heaven. Directed by Silvio Nazzari
1.40 The ITV Chart Show (r)
2.40 Pick of the Week presented by James Whale
3.10 Film: Lightning Back (1982) starring Lewis Fitz-Gerald. Powerful drama about a teacher who battles against the odds to teach a 13-year-old boy with a violent past how to read. Directed by Michael Culliford
5.00 ITN Morning News. Ends at 6.00

6.00 In a Brilliant Light: Van Gogh in Arles. The story of the artist's 15 month sojourn in southern France, which coincided with the climax of his artistic career, can be artist himself
9.05 John Sessions Solo. Funnyman Sessions chats about every topic under the sun - from German bacteria and ancient Rome to a sudden appearance of the Devil in a remote Scottish lighthouse - in this performance recorded in early 1987 (r)
10.05 Film: Almost You (1984). Brooke Adams and Griffin Dunne star in this sophisticated Manhattan comedy. An ambitious young husband, dissatisfied with his life and his failing marriage, seeks happiness elsewhere. But looking for another romance only creates complications. Great fun. Directed by Adam Brooks
11.55 Billy the Fish. Animated series starring Billy, a sea footballer, born half-man, half-fish, who happens to be one of Viz magazine's most popular characters. Tonight, goalkeeper Billy is kidnapped
12.00 Film: Muna Moto (1974, b/w) starring Ariella Din Bell, Daniel Enders and Philip Abia. Acclaimed drama from Cameroon focusing on a tense love triangle. A young man is trapped between marrying his lover because her uncle has the same intention. It is a tragic story in which money and adoption rules. In French with English subtitles. Directed by Jean-Pierre Dionex-Pipa. Ends at 1.35am

BBC 2

- 6.35 Open University
12.00 Westminster Week. (Ceelex) 12.35 Regional Reviews of the Parliamentary Week. Wales: The Software Show. Northern Ireland: A Taste of Ireland
1.00 Open Forum Magazine
1.25 Grandstand introduced by Helen Rolston. The line-up is (subject to alteration): 1.35 and 3.15 Motorcycling: the ACU Shell Oil Supercup from Pembrey; 3.05 Racing from the Curragh; 3.05 and 3.15 Cricket: Glamorgan v Surrey
3.45 Film: Hawaii (1968) starring Max von Sydow and Julie Andrews. Entertaining epic about a zealous missionary who tries to force his Christian ideals to his wife and has not always been successful. Directed by George Roy Hill
6.20 Design Awards Update (r)
6.30 The Money Programme. Black and white South African talk about the future of the country's economy
7.15 Timeswatch Special: A Homecoming.
● One result of the Soviet occupation of east Germany after the second world war was that more than one million Germans lost their land and homes. David Jones's film concentrates on one of the biggest landowners, Count Adolf Helmreich von Arnim, whose estate has been in the family for 700 years. For the first time since he was forced to flee to the west

In 1945 he returns to his former home, 35,000 acres of land and a splendid castle boasting 50 rooms. Miserably contemplating the destruction and desecration, the old count says it is so terrible that it does not hurt any more. At least the castle is still there, used as a holiday centre for east German army officers. The land was initially divided among the villagers before being taken over by the state. Jones has dug out fascinating Soviet propaganda film in which the seizure of the von Arnim estate is represented as a glorious liberation from Prussian tyranny. The count would like to have it back but local opinion is divided
8.05 Film: The Mirror Crack'd (1980) starring Elizabeth Taylor, Rock Hudson and, as Miss Marple, Angela Lansbury. Agatha Christie's heroine and the rest of her villagers are upset by the arrival of a bickering Hollywood crew to film a murder mystery. But Miss Marple begins to feel more herself when a killing occurs among the film-makers. Directed by Guy Hamilton. (Prole) Starting Maria Kocielkowska. The eighth of Krzysztof Kieslowski's series of 10 modern morality plays from Poland. A popular university professor of ethics comes unstuck when a new student joins her "Moral Inferno" series of lectures
10.45 Moviehouse. Alex Cox introduces another film in the cult movie season - The Honeyman Killers (1969). ● Here is a real cut offering, which despite being made more than 20

RADIO 3

- 6.35am Open University (FM only)
6.55 Weather
7.00 Bach's 48 - Book 2: Bach and Fugues Nos 5 and 6; Ton Koopman, harpsichord; anon (Aria, Willet du den Herz mit einem Scherz) from Anna Magdalena's Notebook; Ely Ameling, soprano; Gustav Leonhardt, harpsichord; Bach (Fugue Nos 7 and 8)
7.30 News
7.35 The Broadside Ballad: Dowland Consort and others perform a selection of Dowland's Wind, and songs associated with Shakespeare. The last programme
8.30 News
8.35 Your Concert Choice: Baroque (Filme at the Fair: RPS under Thomas Beecham; Bridge (Cello Sonata in D minor; Raphael Wallfisch, cello; Peter Weitzsch, piano; Sibelius (Suite champêtre); Gottlob (No. 1 under Nierme Jarvi); Vaughan Williams (Silent Noon; Linda Finner, mezzo-soprano; Anthony Legge, pianist; Beethoven (Symphony No 2 from Osmo: SO of the Ministry of Culture under (Mansour)
Music Weekly with Michael Oliver. From Baroque to Chandeliers: Lesanne Langley leads between the lines of early 18th-century musical palimpsests; A Harvest of Composers: Anne Emerson visits Abigail for the May Concerts; The Last Days of the Landscapes: John McCabe scans the far horizons
11.15 BBC Wales 30 under 30: Welsh Song; Iona Brown, violin, performs Vivaldi (The Four Seasons); Tippett (Fantasia for Cello and Piano); Haydn (Symphony No 2); and 12.00 interval Reading
1.00pm Gaelic News and Schumann; David Wilson, piano, performs Beethoven (An die ferne Geliebte, Op 80); Schumann (Dichterliebe, Op 48)
2.05 English Concert under Trevor Pincock, harpsichord, with Paul Simon Standage, viola; Paul Goodwin, cello, performs Haydn (Symphony No 26 from London); Mozart (Rondo for violin and orchestra K 473); Haydn (Cello Concerto in E-flat major, K 245 in E-flat major, K 245)
3.40 Boats Come Back to Harbour. A poem by Patrick Clarke and Anthony Quayle (r)
1.30am Life Force (1985): A team of scientists brings an alien corpse to Earth, only to discover they have set free a vampire. Starring Michael May and Steve Rastbury
4.00 The Dead Zone (1984): An adaptation of Stephen King novel. A man who can see into the past and the future. Starring Christopher Walken. Ends 5.40

RADIO 4

- 6.00 News: Down the River Tweed: Gill Morgan begins a three-part journey following the course of the River Tweed in Scotland
6.40 To the Back of Net: Very Far Away (new series): Part 1. The high-life's black hole
6.55 Shipping Forecast 5.55
7.00 News
7.15 On Your Farm: Colin Cuthbert of Dewhurst's the butchers talks to Robert Forster at Llanfairpwllgwybgi, North Wales
8.00 News
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Currency union starts with £8.6bn 'invasion'

From IAN MURRAY IN BONN

THE easy part of currency union between the two Germanies is coming to an end. With military precision, the Bundesbank has organised the invasion of East Germany by 50 heavily guarded armoured trucks under helicopter escort, bringing in the 25 billion German marks (£8.6 billion) in cash which will be ready for distribution throughout the country from Sunday.

Since there are no pre-

cedents for implementing such a wholesale takeover, the Bundesbank has had to make up the rules as it goes along. It has decided that there will have to be 600 coins minted for each of the 16 million East Germans, so the four federal mints have been working overtime to turn out the 9.6 billion pieces needed.

The bank has also calculated that to be sure it does not run short, it will need to have twice as much money available as the 13.5 billion East German marks in circulation until now.

The mints have done their work, stamping out 500 tonnes of coins and printing 600 tonnes of notes for transport to the bank's 15 offices set up in East Germany since the treaty on currency union was signed six weeks ago. The main branch has been set up in the ponderous building designed between the wars for the Reichsbank, which became the headquarters of the East German Communist party.

While bringing in the new money, the Bundesbank also had to find ways of disposing with the old. A new incinerator has been burning millions of the old notes and millions more have been stuffed in sacks and buried in an abandoned mineshaft outside East Berlin.

The bank has also had to send in 250 staff drawn from the central banks of the 11 West German states to train 800 carefully vetted East German state bank employees in what is to them, the totally alien ways of western finance.

Johann Gaddum, the Bundesbank director responsible for organising the entire operation, is confident that given the short time available for such a massive task, the mechanics of the changeover should go smoothly enough.

Factories condemned, page 10
New miracle, page 12
Leaving article, page 13
Going East: Review, page 10

World Cup 'war' warning

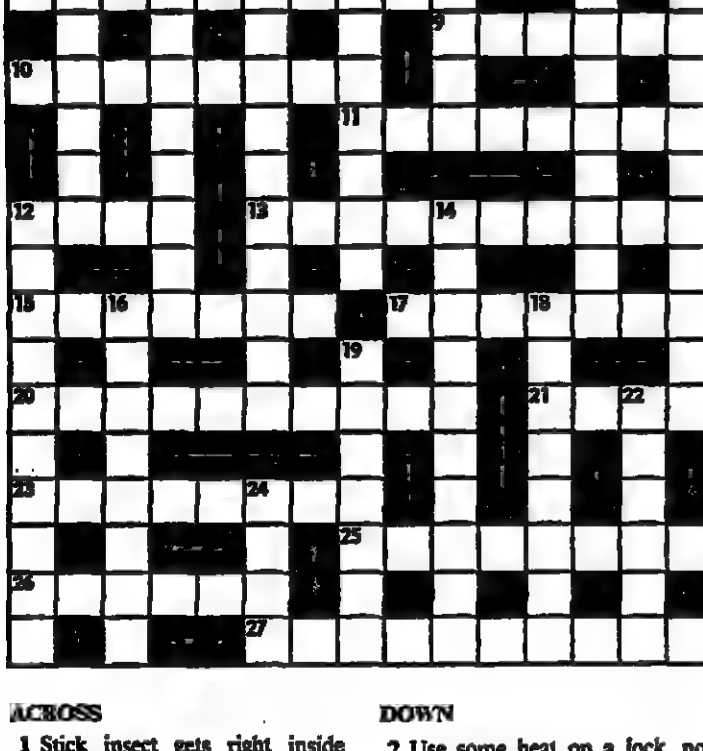
From JOHN GOODBODY IN NAPLES

THE Mayor of Turin wants the venue of one of the World Cup semi-finals switched, provided England beat Cameroon here tomorrow, because she fears a "war" in her city, where memories of the Heysel stadium disaster are still acute.

Maria Magnani Noya has said on television that Turin is the "least suitable venue" for England to play in the semi-finals on Wednesday and wants the match moved to Naples, where the other semi-final is scheduled for Tuesday. The likely opponents in Turin are West Germany. Fifty-eight of their supporters were arrested in violence in Milan early in the tournament.

The mayor said: "I'm terrified if FIFA [football's world governing body] does not intervene. There will be war. No one has forgotten Heysel." Turin is the home of Juventus, 35 of whose followers were among the 39 people crushed to death in Brussels in May, 1985, when Liverpool followers rioted before the European Cup final.

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 18,334



ACROSS

- Stick insect gets right inside sponge (10).
- Artist rejected offer from Greek (6).
- One up? Lord, no (8).
- Precis is difficult to understand (8).
- Almost let the cat out of the bag in confusion (4).
- The age to start to nag for a record allowance (6,4).
- Tragic fellow who swallowed the cricket ball (7).
- The spider and the fly (7).
- Underground river makes item for study, perhaps (10).
- Spell the name (4).
- Bulk of old woman smothered in make-up (8).
- Important as Sheridan's hero (8).
- Extract phosphorus from strip (6).
- Message there, little girl - this bit isn't tender any more (10).

DOWN

- Use some heat on a lock, not having a key (6).
- Private hill to climb? Nonsense (5-3).
- Pan's refusal - no name to be on volume (3-7).
- Tune has no beginning or end - composer to explain (7).
- Wanders to Dickens's hill (4).
- Dress wrongly in Glamis - have to change (8).
- Tap regularly found under the boiler in the kitchen? (10).
- Railing, being ordered long periods inside (10).
- For the record, I included assistance offered but not performed (3-7).
- For one that holds court, fancy dress (8).
- Drink a decline? (8).
- Attract cider as a cocktail (4-3).
- Keep control, receiving thanks (6).
- Give backing off-beat (4).

Solution to Puzzle No 18,328

WHITESEA M T S
E A I S T O N E A G E
J A C K M U N D L E S
G O U D A L L E S
R E G I O N A L S O U N D
A W A R D C L
A T A P I N C H O F A D M
R E U A P T P
D R A G O N S F E E T
I R C T C E R N E
A D V E R T I S E
N Y O N C A R I D A S I D E

Solution to Puzzle No 18,333

TRANSITION EWER
R P P E A R C H A
A P P E A R P R O S I T I G
P A I A T E R N L E G
O I L O A R A T
S O R N P I N S A P L E
A S C O U
F R A N C I A I S D O U R
E R O U R
U P U P P E R N
A V I O N E N T I N E
R T D D C L S A
D O Z E B A T T L E S H I P

SHEAFFER. A prize of a distinctive Sheaffer "Targa" Regency Stripe fountain pen with a solid 14-carat gold nib will be given for the first five correct solutions opened next Thursday. Entries should be addressed to: The Times, Saturday Crossword Competition, PO Box 486, Virginia Street, London E1 9DD. The winners and solution will be published next Saturday.



Prince Aya and Kiko Kawashima, his bride-to-be, top, photographed in ceremonial court attire to mark their wedding. Below: the bride's father, mother and brother saying goodbye as she leaves for the ceremony

No kisses for new Japanese princess

Continued from page 1
Palace in a black limousine. Her mother, ever mindful of the household agency's admonitions, neither smiled nor sobbed as her daughter disappeared but her father permitted himself a wave as the car turned the corner.

After the three and a half hours needed to squeeze Miss Kawashima into her kimono, the ceremony began at 10am in the Kashikodokoro imperial shrine in the palace. It was all over by 10.15am, which must have been something of a disappointment for the 156 guests, since all the action took place out of sight in an inner shrine.

According to tradition, the emperor and empress did not

attend the ceremony but were formally told of it by the newlyweds in the afternoon - just in case they had not heard about it.

Crowds of wellwishers thronged round the Imperial Palace most of the day, and by the time the young couple emerged in the afternoon for their parade, freshly attired in Western dress, public excitement had reached a peak. "She's really fabulous," squealed a flag-waving woman wearing her company uniform who had jumped up and down for an hour. Later she admitted she had seen not a thing but nevertheless insisted: "She's such a modern girl and so cute. Just like your Princess Di."

BA attacks deal with Americans

By MICHAEL DYNES TRANSPORT CORRESPONDENT

LONG-AWAITED plans to expand the number of transatlantic air services between Britain and America were unveiled yesterday by Cecil Parkinson, the transport secretary, and Sam Skinner, his US counterpart.

The announcement provoked bitter criticism from British Airways for failing to provide UK carriers with the same freedoms in the American domestic market as US airlines will benefit from in the British domestic market.

Under the deal, an additional British carrier, possibly Virgin Atlantic, will be allowed to operate between London and Boston, while the UK also obtains the right to operate two new routes between British regional and any main US gateway airports.

The package of measures makes permanent American Airlines' existing Chicago-Manchester route, grants permission for the US to inaugurate two more routes to any British regional airports, and provides for a joint UK-US study of further air liberalization.

Defending the package, Mr Parkinson said that the settlement "provides opportunities for both sides' airlines, and will be of benefit for both consumers and the UK regions", such as Manchester, Birmingham and Edinburgh. The deal was "another step in the government's drive to open up our regional airports,

and give customers the service they want. These are opportunities that I hope British carriers will soon take up.

"Cinching this deal is only a first step," Mr Parkinson said. "Secretary Skinner and I have agreed that the two governments should jointly study the liberalization of the UK-US aviation market," which "will be good for consumers and good for airlines".

Responding to the announcement, British Airways said: "We are disappointed. This is not a negotiated deal which gives the UK equal opportunities to those afforded US airlines."

It added: "BA estimates that, in terms of gross revenue, the deal is worth between £50 million and £70 million a year to US airlines, but probably not more than £20 million to our own airlines. We consider this a weak negotiation, and a giveaway to the Americans."

BA urged Mr Parkinson to use the liberalization talks to "restore the competitive imbalance caused principally by the US veto on access to its internal market".

The announcement is also likely to anger Karel Van Miert, the European transport commissioner, who has repeatedly warned member states against "breaking ranks" so that a "collective front" may be maintained in the European Community's negotiations with the Americans on air liberalization.

WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard

FACULA

- a. A male servant
- b. A little face
- c. A sun spot

DARGA

- a. A crematorium
- b. The Indian wild dog
- c. A Kashmiri homestead

SPONTON

- a. A small bridge
- b. A small-headed ballad
- c. A small-headed ballad

OUTVANGTHIEF

- a. Judging tales
- b. Drawing teeth as punishment
- c. Outlawry

Answers on page 15

TIMES WEATHERCALL

For the latest region by region forecast, 24 hours a day, dial 0898 500 followed by the appropriate code.

- Greater London 701
- Kent, Surrey, Sussex 702
- Dorset, Hampshire & IOW 703
- Devon & Cornwall 704
- Wiltshire, Gloucestershire, Somerset 705
- Berkshire, Bucks, Oxford 706
- Bedfordshire & Essex 707
- Northampton, Cambridgeshire 708
- West Midlands & Shropshire & Warwick 709
- Shropshire, Herefordshire & Worcester 710
- Central Midlands 711
- East Midlands 712
- Lincolnshire & Humberside 713
- Dyfed & Powys 714
- Gwynedd & Chwyd 715
- W & S Wales & Dales 716
- N & E England 717
- Cumbria & Lake District 718
- S & W Scotland 719
- Edinburgh, Fife, Lothian & Borders 720
- North Scotland 721
- Grampians & E Highlands 722
- N & W Scotland 723
- Caithness, Orkney & Shetland 724
- Ireland 725

Weathercall is charged at 5p for 9 seconds (peak and standard) 5p for 12 seconds (off peak). *Includes pollen count.

AA ROADWATCH

For the latest AA traffic and roadworks information, 24 hours a day, dial 0836 401 followed by the appropriate code.

- London & SE traffic, roadworks
- C. London (within N & S Circles) 731
- M-ways/roads M4-M1 732
- M-ways/roads M1-Dartford T. 733
- M-ways/roads Dartford T. 734
- M-ways/roads M25-M4 735
- Grampians & E Highlands 736
- M25 London Orbital only 737
- National traffic and roadworks
- National motorways 738
- West Country 739
- Wales 740
- Midlands 741
- East Angles 742
- North-west England 743
- North-east England 744
- Scotland 745
- Northern Ireland 746

AA Roadwatch is charged at 5p for 8 seconds (peak and standard) 5p for 12 seconds (off peak).

The winners of last Saturday's competition are: G. Gurn, 114 Derby Road, Liverpool; J. H. Myatt, Kenmore, Cleeve, Prenton, Wirral; D. Davis, 1 Tenake, Dunfermline; D. Bishop, Glasgow; P. St Lawrence, 110th Castle, Dublin; R. V. Leach, Knowlands, Highworth, Wiltshire.

Concise Crossword, page 15

WEATHER

Southern Scotland will slowly brighten during the afternoon. Southern and eastern England will have bright or sunny intervals, especially in the morning, but later will get the cloud and showers affecting the rest of England and Wales. Strong south-westerly winds will develop in the south and south-west. Outlook: breezy, showery weather will edge away eastwards.

ABROAD

Monday: 1. London: drizzle; 2. Paris: drizzle; 3. Rome: drizzle; 4. Athens: drizzle; 5. Madrid: drizzle; 6. Tokyo: drizzle; 7. Sydney: drizzle; 8. Melbourne: drizzle; 9. Auckland: drizzle; 10. Wellington: drizzle; 11. Christchurch: drizzle; 12. Dunedin: drizzle; 13. Invercargill: drizzle; 14. Perth: drizzle; 15. Adelaide: drizzle; 16. Melbourne: drizzle; 17. Sydney: drizzle; 18. Melbourne: drizzle; 19. Sydney: drizzle; 20. Melbourne: drizzle; 21. Sydney: drizzle; 22. Melbourne: drizzle; 23. Sydney: drizzle; 24. Melbourne: drizzle; 25. Sydney: drizzle; 26. Melbourne: drizzle; 27. Sydney: drizzle; 28. Melbourne: drizzle; 29. Sydney: drizzle; 30. Melbourne: drizzle; 31. Sydney: drizzle; 32. Melbourne: drizzle; 33. Sydney: drizzle; 34. Melbourne: drizzle; 35. Sydney: drizzle; 36. Melbourne: drizzle; 37. Sydney: drizzle; 38. Melbourne: drizzle; 39. Sydney: drizzle; 40. Melbourne: drizzle; 41. Sydney: drizzle; 42. Melbourne: drizzle; 43. Sydney: drizzle; 44. Melbourne: drizzle; 45. 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SPORT 29-37
BOATS & BOATING 38-39
BUSINESS AND FINANCE 40-45
WEEKEND MONEY 46-56

SUMMARY

England's selection



ANGUS Fraser (above), the Middlesex fast bowler, was yesterday added to the England party for the third Test match against New Zealand at Edgbaston on Thursday. The England selectors think that Fraser should join the Test preparations but he will not play. England will rely on the same squad which drew at Lord's this week. Page 33

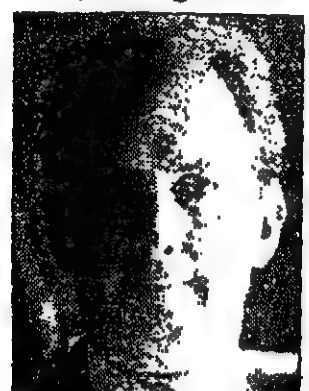
TENNIS

Court position

WHO is the greatest player Rex Bellamy has seen in 30 years of covering Wimbledon? Bellamy, formerly tennis correspondent of *The Times* and still contributing to these pages, writes about his champion of champions in our extract from the Sports Book of the Week. Page 32

RACING

Triple Quest



FIRST-season trainer Roger Charlton (above) attempts to land a record three Derbys in one year when Quorum For Fame, his Epsom hero, heads for the Budweiser Irish Derby at the Curragh tomorrow. Charlton had earlier captured the French Derby with Sanglamore, but Quorum For Fame will have no simple task as he will be opposed by the dual classic-winning filly, Salsabil. Page 36

FOOTBALL

Cup prospects

GRAHAM Taylor, who is expected to be the next manager of England, continues his special analysis of the World Cup for *The Times*, with a detailed look at the quarter-finals which take place today and tomorrow in Italy. He picks the likely victors and identifies the match-winners in waiting. Page 35

CYCLING

Tour starts

THE Tour de France, one of the classic events of international sport, today begins its three weeks of exhaustion and elation. Can Greg LeMond, the remarkable American, repeat his triumph of last year against the challenge of the best from France, Italy, Ireland and the best of the cycling world. John Wilcockson provides a complete guide. Page 31

ATHLETICS

United front



EAST German athletes made what was probably their last appearance for that country last night in Gateshead. The next time great performers like Petra Felke (above) visit these shores, they are expected to represent a unified Germany. Page 31

YACHTING

Setting sail

SOME of the most spectacular sailing ships are gathering in Plymouth this weekend ready for the Cutty Sark Tall Ships series. Page 38

Italy makes an anguished plea for justice to be done

From DAVID MILLER,
CHIEF SPORTS CORRESPONDENT,
ROME

A JOVIAL, off-duty member of the carabinieri, resident outsider to the Republic of Ireland team bus, joined Jack Charlton at the dinner table to request autographs on some snap-shots, taken during a sight-seeing trip the previous day around the vast volcanic crater that forms picturesque, tree-shrouded Lake Nemi.

Jack, who, with his sunburnt bald head and rustic gait looks more holidaymaker at Scarborough than tactical front-runner of the World Cup, obligingly signs. "See you in the semi-finals in Naples," he says, in his mock-serious, Northumbrian way.

The policeman understands enough English not to want to believe what he has just heard, but he wishes to remain friendly. He smiles, uncertainly. "You think so?" he querulously asks, silently saying a prayer to St Peter. The Irish are so lovable: until they get on the field and tear around like sheepdogs closing every exit.

The whole of Italy, united by football as by nothing else, is fervently praying that their fellow Catholics — Jack and Maurice Setters, his assistant, excepted — will not be allowed, in the name of Mary, to continue their voyage against the justice of the game.

Injustice? Azeglio Vicini, the Italian coach, who carries the weight of the nation's expectation as he attempts to scheme a way past these workaholic Irish, knows they are no freaks, no imposters, but a highly-organised team. "The Irish are superb," he says, "and they achieved less than they deserved in the European championship two years ago."

Football stands bewildered at a moral crossroads. It is not a new dilemma. Coaches and players have been trying to read the map that leads to triumph these past 40 years: ever since England lost to the United States in 1950 and then Brazil, at home in Rio, to Uruguay in the final; and four years later, the magical Hungarians to West Germany.

Is it better to perish gloriously or survive by caution? Italy and West Germany apart, the adventurous are perishing in 1990. The second round was not full. The patient and pragmatic are still there. England and Ireland do not read the critics; they look at the scoresheet. It says they are one match away from the semi-finals. That, they will argue, is what they are paid for.

I am no advocate for their particular style. I weep with the rest at the demise of Brazil and the Netherlands, my tips for the final. Yet, it cannot be said that England and Ireland stand where they do by unfair means. They are among the teams with the fewest bookings. England scored two goals, one improperly disallowed, and Belgium none on Tuesday. Ireland had more scoring chances than Romania.

Therein lies the history, and the beauty, of football. In no other sport is a clear superiority so little a guarantee of victory. The situation only becomes serious when, as now, most of the lesser-skilled teams are winning.

This has partly been due to the intense heat, which has encouraged negative, inactive play — although the Irish characteristically contradict this with their phenomenal running — but, more particularly, to the simplicity with



Taking it easy: Batcher and Wright relax at the England hotel near Salerno before the quarter-final meeting with Cameroon

which negative play can be organised among ordinary players. England immediately became a better team — that is, one less likely to lose — when they adopted an extra defender, a sweeper.

They have yet to acquire, as have Italy and others, the concomitant parts of the formula: a much wider flexibility in midfield that embraces both attack and defence. England, with three goals, and Ireland, with two, are the lowest scorers among the last eight.

The dilemma of the game extends to FIFA, the world governing body, and to the International Board, which controls the laws and in which the four British associations retain half the voting power. Thursday's marginal adjustment of the offside law, allowing the attacker level with a second defender between him and the goal line, rather than behind him, to be onside, plus the mandatory sending off, from next season, for so-called professional fouls on a breakthrough forward, are insufficient to shift the World Cup back towards a reward for skill.

The penalty-kick sequence to determine drawn matches is an open invitation to negative play by weaker sides. The decisive factor should instead be the number of

corners conceded in the penalty area and/or the gross number of bookings or sendings off up to that stage.

Such changes, however, have to come with a far higher and more consistent standard of refereeing than we have seen in Italy. FIFA should divert some of its vast income from sponsors to the establishment of a full-time panel of professional referees. As Milan Miljanic, the Yugoslav general manager, has said, the referees are the least developed section of the modern game.

For the moment, Vicini must scratch his head and hope that the team he selects can tonight find a way past Ireland's remarkable midfield of Houghton, McGrath, Townsend and Sheedy. Schillaci and Baggio? Carnevale? Vialli? Sereno? One thing is sure: it will be the wrong decision should Italy, unthinkably, lose. Their anxiety is that Ireland, uniquely, defend across the middle of the field more than with their back line.

Charlton did not even bother to send a spy to watch Italy's second-round encounter with Uruguay. "There's no point," he says. "I can see the video. We don't aim to match other sides at anything special. We set out to deny them

room to develop through the midfield."

The only way to worry Ireland is with long balls, turning their defence the way they do their opponents — with respect to Mr Kenny, of Dun Laoghaire, who chides me for referring to Irish football as British, which essentially it is, the Football League-born Irish epitomise much of what formerly brought England success in European club competition: will-power, teamwork and control of the middle of the field.

There is little new in football. Spain's manager, Suarez, once a mudfield genius, may throw up his arms in dismay at the unfair elimination of his positive team by Yugoslavia; yet, 30 years ago he left Barcelona for Inter Milan, then the most negative and successful team of all in European competition.

Morality, in this game, so much depends on where you happen to be standing. It will be no surprise if England and Ireland confound everyone by reaching the semi-finals. For the Irish, this is their final, so they will be free of care.

England's continuing problem is that they cannot make up their minds which side of the fence they

Casual giant powers onward

By ALIX RAMSAY

GORAN Ivanisevic went through to the last 16 of the men's singles at the All England tennis championships at Wimbledon yesterday by virtually blasting Derek Rostagno off court, 6-2, 6-2, 6-4, yesterday. All he needs to ease his way to a possible meeting with Boris Becker in the semi-finals is for John McEnroe to return his rackets.

On Sunday, the 18-year-old Yugoslav practised with McEnroe and the former Wimbledon champion asked to try Ivanisevic's racket. "He said he needed to hit the ball with more power and he asked to borrow two rackets," Ivanisevic said.

After losing to Rostagno in the opening round with the rackets, McEnroe promptly went home to the United States, still clutching his latest acquisitions. "I have five



rackets but I want these two also," Ivanisevic said, not a little upset by the American's behaviour.

Yesterday, however, Ivanisevic needed only one racket and 17 aces to further his Wimbledon career. This was the battle of the giant-killers. In Paris Ivanisevic had ousted Boris Becker in the first round and Rostagno had done the same to McEnroe at Wimbledon.

At 6ft 4in Ivanisevic has legs that go all the way up to his shoulders; two strides and he has covered the court. He moves with a lazy ease. In between points he moves slowly, he seems to amble to the net for a volley but when he hits the ball he unleashes enough power to knock holes in the court.

By contrast Rostagno did not look a happy man. He played with his racket, he threw his racket down, he hit the ball to the heavens in search of inspiration.

Last time these two met on grass was in Liverpool, Rostagno winning in three sets. But that was last week. "Today I played too good," Ivanisevic said. "I played one of the best matches of my life. I think I surprised myself on grass because last time I played I lost concentration. But now my concentration is very good and I really think I can do well here."

With no seeds left in his section of the draw, Ivanisevic is just two rounds away from a rematch with Becker. "I have a very good draw but I go round by round," Ivanisevic said. "If I go to the semi-final I am going to play my best game. He's the Wimbledon champion and he will need to win. I think he's going to be scared."

Preparing for the quarter-finals, pages 34 and 35

Reports, page 30
Results, page 34

Irish miracles in a bewildered city

Rome
THIS city is bewildered. How can one come to terms with the Irish in Rome? How can one imagine Ireland playing Italy — the mighty Azzurri — in the Stadio Olimpico? The very idea of Ireland, an Anglophone, Catholic nation, seems a contradiction here, yet here the Irish unquestionably are. Irish officials even obtained 10,000 extra tickets for them this week: now they only need one more miracle. Yesterday was a holy day of obligation — Santi Pietro e Paolo — and the Irish were delighting in this joint pilgrimage. St Peter's Square was full of them.

In mere footballing terms, Rome is finding it hard to adjust to the Irish. Italy have won every game and have not conceded a goal. Ireland have yet to win a match. Indeed, say their critics, they have yet to play football.

But the Irish are unabashed. The team paid a visit to that well-known former goalkeeper, Pope John-Paul II. "Best wishes to the Irish team," he said, and was cheered by several hundred Irish pilgrims. The team met the Pope privately, with their English manager, Jack Charlton, and the Bishop of Limerick, Monsignor Liam O'Boyle. They presented the Pope with an autographed football and then, led by the bishop, they all sang "Come on you boys in green".

I have a feeling that Pat Bonner, the Irish goalkeeper, will meet all



SIMON BARNES
ON SATURDAY

the benefits that a blessing from a Pope and fellow-goalie can give him when he faces the Azzurri tonight.

An Indian Cup of woe
Power struggles have swept across Calcutta. "The government has failed totally," said Mamta Banerjee, an opposition politician. "They cannot provide us with security, law and order. Now even the World Cup has been denied us. They should resign immediately."

The problem is that power stations have been unable to meet the demand caused by people who want to watch the World Cup on television. Power department officials have been beaten up when power cuts have occurred in the middle of matches. Calcutta is the focal point of football in India, and Calcutta is a place that takes its passions very seriously.

Explosion of interest?

NO problems of the above kind in the United States. In this, the home of the 1994 World Cup, the lack of interest has been profound. The three matches that involved the United States side were watched by less than two per cent of the people to whom they were available. The TNT network said that the final match was watched in

473,000 homes. I have a feeling that the '94 World Cup will seem, to those of us who have watched the Azzurri in Rome, like nothing less than a ghost tournament.

More on the effect of Ireland on the unprepared, the Swedish golfer, Mikael Krantz, ran into serious problems when he played the Irish Open in Dublin last weekend. At the first tee, he hit the ball all right, but promptly fell on his face, dragging his caddy down with him. His second shot vanished into Dublin Bay. He finished with an 11-over-par 83. The reason for all this was simple: he was dying of a hangover at the time. The charm, and the Guinness, had overwhelmed him the previous night. "I was very silly," he said. "I was invited to an Irish party and it just went on from there." A tour official said: "His 83 and the hangover he had may be punishment enough, but we'll have to see if it goes any further."

Short cut to success

AS the Irish prepare to play Italy here, so an MCC side is ready to do battle in Paris. After the historic defeat against France last summer, MCC takes on the Standard Athletic Club, the British expats' sports club, in a two-day match to celebrate the club's centenary.

They face the same captain that carried France to victory before. Jack Short, an Irishman (inevitably), put that win down to a three-point plan: making the travel arrangements as awkward as possible; holding the celebration dinner the night before the match (and doing so in the Rue St

Denis, the red light district); and, the "poor-mouth strategy", in which the French side pool-poohed their own chances. Roger Knight, former captain of Surrey, led the side last time and does so on this occasion. Last time, he went so far as to address the French news in headmasterly French. Neither that, nor the sight of 14 MCC ties in the red light district, have ever been forgotten.

Great deeds in Devon

ROME is about as excited by the NatWest Trophy as the United States is about the World Cup, but I hear word of Somerset's ludicrous scoring against Devon on Wednesday: 417 for four, with Graham Rose scoring a century in 36 balls. But there has been a hundred still faster, and that in the first-class game: David Hookes did it in 34 balls for South Australia against Victoria in October 1982. The fastest Test hundred came from I. V. A. Richards: 56 balls, against England in Antigua (where else), in 1986.

Previously, hundreds were tallied in minutes rather than balls: the famous 35-minute Percy Fender ton in 1920 required between 40 and 46 balls: that is as near as it can be reckoned from the scorebook. In cricket at less elevated levels, there have been still more improbable deeds: when Alderney played Sun Alliance on Alderney in June 1983, David Whatmore, playing for the home side, scored 210 in 61 balls. His first ton took 31 balls, his second a mere 25. He hit 12 fours and 25 sixes.

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Grunting could be just a passing phase

TENNIS professionals seldom confess, not at length anyway, that playing a game is a joyous way to earn a living. Under ceaseless prompting from the sensation-hunting media, they are far more likely to expound on the deficiencies of the modern game — and to imply that the blame lies at everyone's door except their own.

Thus it is with two consistently topical issues: the farmyard noises emitted by a few of their number, and the need to extend the two-week interval between the French championships, played on slow clay, and the grass-court test of Wimbledon. In each case, the players are not doing as much as they could to repair the flaws.

Nowadays there are no easy matches in the early rounds of grand-slam tournaments and little chance to adjust gradually to the demands of a drastic change in

court surfaces. Consequently several leading players tend to concentrate on Paris or Wimbledon rather than trying to give 100 per cent to each event. This affects the entry at both tournaments, which is bad for the game.

Repeatedly, players have told us that they need more than two weeks in which to tune up their grass-court games. But Chris Goringe, chief executive of the All England Club (Wimbledon), said yesterday: "We have written to the two players associations, asking whether they would like us to change the dates. We have had no official response."

Jim McManus, senior vice-president of the men's Association of Tennis Professionals, confirmed that. Past and present Wimbledon chairmen had agreed to consider later dates, he said, as long as the players' associations and tournament directors agreed



COMMENT

BY REX BELLAMY

to seeking such a change.

"The players wanted more grass," McManus added, "but when we sat down with the tournament directors we were asked where the extra week was coming from — the European side or the American side. We realised that there was a controversy — and we haven't come up with a united voice."

Barbara Wancke, the International Tennis Federation's director of women's tennis, raised a related point. "It depends which

players you talk to," she said. "The European women would like an extra week between the French and Wimbledon but the US women would not, because it would extend their stay in Europe — a long season on clay and then a long season on grass."

"It's highly debatable whether a change would be desirable for the calendar. This is something that has to be looked at in detail by the pro council, the Women's Tennis Association, and everybody else."

She said another suggestion,

moving the French championships a week forward, was impracticable because of the weather and the present dates coinciding with a holiday period that was "very lucrative" for the tournament.

The question of grunting and grunting noises when players hit the ball has been with us for a decade and more. Jimmy Connors and Virginia Ruzici have been outstanding examples. Monica Seles is the chief modern source of controversy but Malcolm Huntington, who umpired her match with Camille Benjamin, said he did not find the noise distracting and understood that she was "making an effort to keep the decibels down".

Huntington added: "This is my 31st Wimbledon and in my presence nobody has complained. If players made a noise that was distracting to the opponent, the hindrance rule could be applied."

(This has in fact been done elsewhere, but only in rare instances that attracted no publicity).

Roger Smith, Wimbledon's chief of umpires, commented: "It's markedly less in volume than it was before but it's generally accepted that it has become an unacceptable part of the game. It's something we would like to eliminate. I don't see why the hindrance rule could not be applied — equally, if it was particularly serious, the unsportsmanlike conduct rule."

Wancke observed: "It is not very attractive to the spectator sitting at court-side but is not very audible on the television coverage — it depends a little on how the microphones are placed. I know that in Spain there were a lot of complaints to television about one of top-spin, may be just a passing phase."

clearly it's in contravention of the rules. The debatable thing is whether it is indeed distracting. It seems that players concentrate to such a degree that they don't notice it much and don't let it bother them. Otherwise, presumably, they would complain to the chair umpire — and they don't.

"If it happens all the time, if it's consistent all through the match, they just blot it out. I don't think it worries the players as much as it worries the spectators."

Faltering Capriati shows maturity

By REX BELLAMY

THE spirit of enchantment seems to have settled on court two at Wimbledon. Thursday gave us a delightful match between Alex Antonitsch and Henri Leconte. Yesterday gave us two hours 20 minutes of similar but skilful pleasure while Jennifer Capriati, coming back from 4-2 down in the first set and 3-0 in the third, was beating Robin White, 7-5, 6-7, 6-3.

Capriati had two match points at 5-4 in the second set and, almost an hour later, needed four more. White saved three with services to the forehand and, reasonably, gambled that Capriati would expect the same treatment again. But White's service to the backhand produced a return that blazed down the line and brought White to her knees.

What a joy this match was. There was an absorbing contrast in playing styles, a consistently high standard of tennis, and dramatic ebb and flow as each player in turn achieved fleeting authority. Finally, that is, until White almost drained her resources (mental, physical, perhaps both) in the third game of the third set.

In that tremendously thrilling game Capriati, already a break down, had five break points and White, wise game points, winning the last when Capriati hit a backhand long. That left White 3-0 up and statistically in charge. But in the next five games she scored only eight points. Her goose had been cooked.

We were reminded that White, though only 26, was 12 years and three months the older than Capriati, a professional since March, had yet to learn how difficult it is to win such a match. To the very young, all things are possible and the well of energy never runs dry.

For most of the match, the vast difference in age and experience was not apparent. White is trim and nimble and

bouncy and still has the glow of youth upon her. She wears her fair hair in what a lady from the BBC told me is a "flicked bob". The dark pony-tailed Capriati is mature beyond her years physically and, as we soon learned, technically and tactically.

Capriati's father was born in Italy, which explained the presence of a reporter from Scotland on Sunday ("there's a huge Italian population in Glasgow"). And listen carefully: I shall say this only once: White is coached by John Lloyd, the former husband of Capriati's former coach's daughter. To help you with that, Capriati used to be coached by Jimmy Ever, at Fort Lauderdale.

Lloyd and White had done their homework, just as Vin Edwards and Evonne Goollagong did their homework concerning the way to play Chris Evert. If your opponent has a two-fisted backhand and the consequently restricted reach, play short and low to the backhand; and knock off the upspin returns, if any.

Such a strategy suited White anyway. She is a brisk, no-nonsense Californian with a sharply conventional serve-and-volley game (astutely varied yesterday), that married perfectly with the furious hitting of Capriati from the baseline, though Capriati played enough competent volleys, smashes, and lobs to remind us that she is far more than a slinger.

So imagine, if you will, the spectacle before you two personable young women disputing an even match, each doing her own thing exceptionally well, before an enraptured crowd on a gloriously sunny afternoon. This was England and tennis — all at their best.

What ultimately mattered was each player's response to that desperate third game in the third set. The rest was like an extra half of wine that none of us really needed. But it went down well.

Champion loses her sparkle as media accusations rankle

By ANDREW LONGMORE, TENNIS CORRESPONDENT

STEFFI Graf could not have dropped many broader hints this week that she is beginning to tire of the champion's life in West Germany. In an interview in *Stern* magazine, she suggested that if the rumours about her father's private life continued she would move to the United States.

Two days ago, she withdrew from the West German team in the Federation Cup in Atlanta in July while, in reaching the fourth round at Wimbledon, she has routed her former team-mates, the two Claudias, Porwik and Kohde-Kilsch, with the loss of seven games.

Graf's message could hardly be clearer if she had burnt it onto the centre court grass: you'll miss me when I'm gone. By her own admission after her defeat by Monica Seles in the final of the French Open, Graf has lost something from her game. Some say it is her hunger, some her much-feared forehand.

Graf herself does not know,



Wimbledon results, page 34

or at least does not say, what the missing component is, but it does not take much amateur psychology to work out that life in general and tennis, in particular, has lost its shine for the West German.

The presence of such spectacularly bright young things as Capriati and Seles, both of whom won yesterday, only highlights the lack of sparkle in Graf's demeanour. She suffered from sinusitis, caused by an allergy, in Paris and has only recently recovered from flu.

The allegations concerning her father have dogged the Graf family for much of the last year. This past week the defending champion has been

taxed far more about her father's private life than about her tennis. In response, Graf has stopped reading the newspapers and has developed a very skilful technique in deflecting personal questions.

She never misses an opportunity to defend her father, who returned home in the middle of the week, but gently and firmly declines to talk about anything else.

What is more difficult to gauge is how much the off-court problems have affected her tennis. "It didn't make it any easier in Paris, that's for sure, and I had a tough time," she said. "But I am very eager to win here." No one who has seen the champion this past week could doubt that.

It is almost as if the centre and No. 1 courts have become places of refuge, havens of peace and quiet where she can forget her troubles and concentrate on being a champion. While play has meant trial and tribulation and, in the last two years, ultimate defeat, Wimbledon has brought only success and confidence.

"I think you can see it. It's different for me to be here and it seems when I go on to the court I am a different person and I enjoy it very much."

The week ahead will provide sterner tests of nerve, beginning with Capriati on Monday and, if all goes well, with Seles in the semi-final and Navratilova in the final.

Merton plan to cash in

MERTON Council, the local authority which forced the All England Club to remove standing space on the Wimbledon centre court, plans to set up its own ticket broking operation for the championships.

The Labour-run council intends to set up as competition to tourists, offer a hospitality service and sell strawberries and cream

to rival street traders. Those proposals are under consideration for next year but in the meantime the authority is opening up council land for car parking and charging for setting up hospitality marquees.

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LeMond looks ready to upset the sceptics

No happy ending in sight for the delightful World Cup fairy-tale of Cameroon and the Republic of Ireland

The odds must be that class will tell at last

Rome
WITH Brazil, the Soviet Union, Spain and the Netherlands all back home, and no Hagi, Romania, or Scifo, of Belgium, to look forward to in the quarter-finals this weekend?

Has FIFA got it right when the first knockout round sets Brazil against Argentina and pits Gullit and Co against Beckenbauer's West Germany? Are these not the type of games we should be anticipating as semi-finals? Is this a justifiable argument for a more selective seeding system?

These are questions that may be answered before the next World Cup, but while some of the leading performers have joined the ranks of the television viewers, there is enough interest to demand our attention.

The betting is on semi-finals between Argentina and Italy, and England and West Germany, with the big money settling on the hosts to outwit the Germans in Rome on July 8. Little money is being placed on a final between the Irish and Cameroon, but the results of some of the games played so far indicate that it might be worth



GRAHAM TAYLOR ON THE WORLD CUP

looking at the odds.

Four years ago, Maradona said, it was "the hand of God" that helped the ball over Peter Shilton and enabled Argentina to beat England at the same quarter-final stage. If it was not the same hand that stopped the ball near the goal in his team's group game against the Soviet Union, I can only say that, at the very least, he must have a strong connection with them because I consider them very fortunate to have reached this stage.

Having scraped into the second round in one of the third-place positions, they were dominated by Brazil and yet still won 1-0. Yet there was no divine assistance in the setting up of the winning goal. Maradona made it with a superb run, drawing three Brazilian defenders to him before releasing an exquisite pass which allowed Caniggia to score.

It only takes 30 seconds of this

man's brilliance for a game to be won or lost, and I suspect that the Yugoslavs will elect to man-mark him throughout the match.

Their own jewel, Dragan Stojkovic, will receive the same kind of treatment from the Argentinians. This game puts on the stage two of the most exciting talents remaining in the competition. Much will depend on which has the greater effect. Stojkovic reflects the nature of his team. When they are good, they are very, very good. When they are bad, they might just as well pack up and go home. If they get a complex about Maradona and the Argentinians, as they did about Maradona and his colleagues in their 4-1 defeat by West Germany, they could be in trouble.

Like their opponents, they were fortunate to win their second-round game, against Spain, needing their outstanding player to get both goals for them. This one is Maradona versus Stojkovic, and I am backing the Yugoslav only in the belief that Maradona's line to heaven has been taken over by the Irish team.

But, even my support for Paul

McGrath and Tony Casarino is not enough to convince me that the biggest upset of the competition will occur when, five hours later, the Republic of Ireland play Italy in Rome.

With referees having thrown yellow cards about like wedding confetti, I am being at my most respectful when I say that one of the greatest individual achievements of the tournament so far is that of Mick McCarthy, the Irish centre half, in reaching this stage caution-free.

He is a great competitor, of that there is no doubt, but how is he going to stop Schuster and friends without incurring the wrath of the Roman crowd? If Mick mistakes a tackle or is caught out by the pace and nimbleness of the Italian forwards, then he will have less chance of surviving than the Christians had down the road at the Colosseum in years gone by.

What a challenge this is for Jack and his lads. The Italians do not score a lot of goals and the Irish have become masters at frustrating their opponents by not playing "normal football", so could it be that we will witness another penalty shoot-out? My heart

speaks for the Irish, my head for the Italians. I forecast a 2-0 win for Italy.

I cannot see who is going to stop Franco Baresi breaking forward and opening up the Irish. If Jack details someone to attempt this, then, for the first time, he will be altering his team's pattern of play, and I do not think that he will be prepared to do that.

So tonight, I expect that I shall be going to bed once again to the accompaniment of car horns and shouts of "Italia, Italia" reverberating throughout Rome and, no doubt, throughout the whole of this football-crazy country.

Tomorrow, in Milan, the power, pace and organisation of the other favourites, West Germany, comes up against a lighter, silkier and perhaps not so mentally strong Czechoslovakia.

I do not believe that the Germans will be as cautious in their approach to this game as they were against the Netherlands. There is something, however, in their make-up, which seems to require them to grind out a result instead of taking a few risks in order to obtain a spectacular triumph.

Having said that, I am sure they will be too strong for a Czechoslovakian team that never seems to believe totally in itself. They rarely dominate a game, preferring to play slowly, trying to outwit the opposition.

I can see the Germans sweeping them aside, and if they gain in confidence as the match progresses, I foresee a comprehensive win for Beckenbauer's team.

And so to the last game. I am putting my head on the chopping block in the belief that England can beat Cameroon as comprehensively as the Soviet Union did in their only win in the group matches. Such a result might bring a repeat of the 1966 final, and the 1970 quarter-final.

The Africans are four players short through suspension and, although there are some doubts about the fitness of a number of English players, providing that a respectable pace is maintained throughout the game, that will be too much for Cameroon to handle.

In their previous matches only the Soviet Union put them under any sort of pressure. Argentina, Romania and Colombia adopted much slower, more cautious

build-ups. If Chris Waddle can repeat the type of runs he made in the first half against Belgium, the Cameroon defenders will have great difficulty containing him. He will have to be prepared for some rash tackling; he must take it as a compliment and a sign that he has the beating of his opponent.

England's biggest problem could well come from Ornan Biyick, who has real pace and could surprise one or two defenders. His other asset is his ability in the air.

I cannot emphasise too strongly how important it will be for England to dictate the pace of this match. If it is too slow they could land in trouble, for that will suit Cameroon as they will take every opportunity to frustrate and irritate the English players.

I believe that the story of Cameroon and Roger Milla will come to an end tomorrow night, and that England will be one game away from the World Cup final. All that being said, it has been known for me to end up with egg on my face. I think I will just pop off to see what the odds are for a final between Cameroon and the Republic of Ireland.

ROSS KINNARD

England confident of coping

From STUART JONES, FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT, NAPLES

THERE are those who assume that England's biggest danger in the World Cup quarter-final tomorrow night will be avoiding an accident during the descent down the vertiginous, mountainous roads to the San Paolo stadium. They should think again. Victory over Cameroon is far from a formality.

Nevertheless, when England leave their full-top retreat, they will head towards the tie with more optimism than four years ago. Then, they were inhibited by the threat posed by one individual, Maradona, and the captain of Argentina was to realise their worst fears in an infamous 2-1 defeat in Mexico City.

"We are less apprehensive now," Bobby Robson said yesterday, as he sat with Maradona's adopted city hidden in the heat haze behind him. No wonder. Cameroon do not have an irresistible genius. Their most productive weapon is a 38-year-old who was persuaded to temporarily interrupt his retirement.

Milla — or Milla, as he prefers to be known — has scored four of their five goals so far. Even so, the elder statesman is expected to fill his usual role as a substitute.

Probable teams

ENGLAND (3-4-3): 1 P Shilton (Derby County), 5 D Walker (Nottingham Forest), 14 M Wright (Derby County), 6 T Butcher (Preston), 12 P Parker (QPR), 19 P Gascoigne (Nottingham Forest), 17 P Platt (Aston Villa), 3 S Pearce (Nottingham Forest), 8 G Waddle (Middlesbrough), 10 G Lineker (Nottingham Forest), 11 J Barnes (Liverpool).

Otherwise, the amateur player from the Reunion Islands League might prematurely run out of energy.

"We feel this is a match we can handle," Robson said. "We know we have a bit to do to get through but we think we can cope." His belief is based on the knowledge that all of his principle players will probably be available.

With Lineker and Walker responding encouragingly to treatment, Barnes remains the most serious doubt. His complaint is a groin strain and he rates his own fitness at 80 per cent. "If I'm left out of the team, I will say it was because

I was injured," he joked.

The sweeper system, introduced so successfully against Netherlands, and which worked eventually against Belgium, will surely be retained.

There might be a change in personnel, though. McMahon has been diffident and is likely to be replaced by Platt, the scorer of the belated winner on Tuesday.

No one has benefited more from the formation than Waddle and Wright, both of whom have been released from their normal disciplined duties and are free to roam. Wright, significantly, was voted by a

group of Italian analysts as the best central defender in the first round of the tournament.

"He deserves it," Robson said. "He was outstanding against Holland. He had to change his game to a more orthodox role against Egypt, and he was outstanding again the other night. His anticipation is so good." Five years ago, Robson omitted Wright because his timing was awry.

Waddle was unrestricted for no more than half an hour against the Dutch before he was ordered to mark their right back. Against the Belgians, when he was allowed to wander throughout the night, he was a revelation. "It suits me more," he said yesterday. "Otherwise, I'm bogged down." "When we play the 4-4-2 system and they've got a sweeper, their full back stays wide. I end up in our own half and it is difficult to get forward and show what you can do. We play the sweeper system most of the time at Middlesbrough so I'm used to it."

"In the first round, nobody wanted to do anything silly and, at times, there was a lot of fear. Against Belgium, we said to hell with it. Let's go for the win. The games are more open now and we know that Cameroon won't press us. They'll try to suck us in."

"I hope the people watching on television at home understand that we will have to be

patient. It could go to the last kick again." Those in the stadium would prefer not to witness another evening of nail-biting tension but Waddle's assessment would seem to be accurate.

Cameroon may be without four suspended midfield and defensive players — Kana Biyick, Mbouh, Ndiop and Onana — but, such is the depth of their squad, they will not be severely depleted. During their victories over Argentina, Romania and Colombia, they showed that they, too, can adapt to different opponents and change their tactics accordingly.

Their one consistent flaw has been their wild indiscipline. "I don't mind if they knock us down all night as long as it's around their box," Robson said. The source of two of England's three goals so far, it should be remembered, has been free-kicks taken by Gascoigne.

Another such goal could prolong Robson's national managerial career and carry his side into the semi-finals, probably against West Germany, in Turin on Wednesday.

The city fathers there have already expressed their anxiety about the possible consequences of hooliganism and, if England impress tomorrow, the Germans could share their concern.



Family ties: Jack Charlton waves to his brother, Bobby, during training yesterday

An Irish defeat is necessary for the good of the game

FROM CLIVE WHITE, ROME

IN MOST of us, it is second nature to want to give our whole-hearted support to underdogs, all the more so when they are home-bred. But for the good of the game, never mind the ultimate success of these World Cup finals, it is essential that the Republic of Ireland — a mongrel if ever there was one — is firmly given the thumbs down in the Olympic Stadium here tonight in their quarter-final tie against Italy.

The consequences, should these Irish warriors hang grimly on to their gifted opponents until the fanatical expectation of 57 million people becomes too much of a burden to shoulder, do not bear thinking about. The full potential of such a scenario becomes painfully clear when one realises that the Irish are without any responsibility other than to themselves. Besides, they must have become unpermeable to pressure after their climactic victory against Romania in the previous round.

Training on the lush turf of the magnificently-refurbished Olympic Stadium yesterday morning, the Irish looked a picture of health and relaxation. One would like them to do well, for the sake of the players and supporters who have behaved, as ever, in a sporting and good-humoured way. If only the style of their football was as charming.

The Irish manager has again come to the conclusion that there is great tactical advantage

in not announcing his team until the day of the game. More than anything, that was an insult to the Italians, whom, one would have thought, are flexible enough to cater for any tactical nuance which Charlton can come up with.

Charlton claimed that doubts still persisted about the fitness of Aldridge (achilles tendon) and Staunton (hamstring), and certainly the latter again took no time in training, although that is standard practice for players with niggling injuries.

McCarthy, the captain, also chose not to play in the practice match, but all are expected to be fit for the greatest game of their lives.

It could be that Charlton is contemplating playing with just one forward and five in midfield in an attempt to further strengthen their ability to stifle and spoil. Goalscoring seems almost the last of their considerations. As Charlton said yesterday: "If we win, that's fine. If we lose, that's fine. If it goes to penalties, that's terrific."

Should Aldridge, who was given a fitness test yesterday, the result of which Charlton refused to reveal, not be fit, it is more than likely that the Republic would choose another mobile forward who can tackle and deflect, like Byrne, the former Queen's Park Rangers player, as a replacement.

The selection from the start of two big men like Casarino and Quinn would seriously curtail

THE PATH TO THE FINAL

QUARTER-FINALS	
Sat June 30 (4pm) Florence	
ARGENTINA	
YUGOSLAVIA	
Scorers	

SEMI-FINAL	
Tue July 3 (7pm) Naples	
Scorers	

FINAL	
Sun July 8 (7pm) Rome	
Scorers	

3rd PLACE PLAY-OFF	
Sat July 7 (7pm) Bari	
Scorers	

HOW THEY QUALIFIED																
GROUP A					GROUP D											
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts		P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts	
Italy	3	2	0	0	4	8	6	W Germany	3	2	1	0	10	3	5	4
Czech	1	1	1	1	4	3	3	Yugoslavia	3	2	0	1	5	5	4	
Austria	1	0	0	2	2	8	2	Colombia	3	1	1	1	3	2	3	
United States	3	1	0	2	2	8	2		3	0	0	3	2	11	0	
Results: Italy 1, Austria 0; United States 1, Czechoslovakia 0; Italy 1, United States 0; Czechoslovakia 1, Italy 2; Austria 0, Czechoslovakia 0; Austria 2, United States 1.								Results: UAE 0, Colombia 2; West Germany 4, Yugoslavia 1; Yugoslavia 1, Colombia 0; West Germany 5, UAE 1; West Germany 1, Colombia 0; Yugoslavia 2, UAE 1.								

Stages 1.						
GROUP B						
	P	W	L	F	A	Pts
Cameroon	3	2	0	1	5	4
Romania	1	1	1	1	4	3
Argentina	1	1	1	1	4	3
Soviet Union	1	0	2	3	4	2
Results: Argentina 0, Cameroon 1; Romania 2, Soviet Union 0; Argentina 2, Soviet Union 0; Cameroon 1, Romania 1; Argentina 1, Romania 1; Cameroon 0, Soviet Union 4.						
GROUP E						
	P	W	L	F	A	Pts
Spain	3	2	1	0	5	5
Belgium	3	2	1	0	5	5
South Korea	3	2	1	1	2	3
South Korea	3	0	2	3	1	0
Results: Belgium 2, South Korea 0; Spain 2, Belgium 3; Uruguay 1, Spain 3; South Korea 1, Belgium 1; Spain 2, Uruguay 1; South Korea 0, Uruguay 1.						

GROUP C							
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Brazil	3	0	0	0	4	1	6
Costa Rica	3	0	0	0	3	2	4
Scotland	3	1	0	2	3	0	3
Sweden	3	0	0	3	3	0	0
Results: Brazil 2, Sweden 1; Scotland 0, Costa Rica 1; Brazil 1, Costa Rica 1; Sweden 1, Scotland 0; Sweden 1, Costa Rica 2.							

QUARTER-FINAL FORM GUIDE

International matches between the World Cup quarter-finalists since 1945
Key: WC: World Cup, EC: European championship, ENG: European Nations Cup, BIF: British Independence Tournament, F: Friendly

ARGENTINA v YUGOSLAVIA	
Year	Venue
1966	Mar del Plata
1972	Rio de Janeiro
1977	Buenos Aires
1979	Belgrade

CZECHOSLOVAKIA v WEST GERMANY	
Year	Venue
1958	Prague
1966	Hamburg (Swe)
1968	Luxemburg
1973	Dusseldorf
1976	Belgrade
1977	Hanover
1978	Prague
1980	Rome
1982	Cologne
1985	Prague
1986	Munich

ITALY v REPUBLIC OF IRELAND	
Year	Venue
1970	Florence
1974	Dublin
1985	Dublin

ENGLAND v CAMEROON	
Year	Venue
1970	Florence
1974	Dublin
1985	Dublin

3rd PLACE PLAY-OFF	
Year	Venue
1970	Florence
1974	Dublin
1985	Dublin

HOW THEY QUALIFIED	
GROUP A	
Italy	3 2 0 0 4 8 0
Czech	1 1 1 1 4 3 3
Austria	1 0 0 2 2 8 0
United States	1 0 0 2 2 8 0
Results: Italy 1, Austria 0; United States 1, Czechoslovakia 0; Italy 1, United States 0; Czechoslovakia 1, Italy 2; Austria 0, Czechoslovakia 0; Austria 2, United States 1.	

Extra time, of 30 minutes, will be played if scores are level after 90 minutes. If ties are still not settled, extra time will be followed by a penalty shoot-out. Five penalties will be taken. If the teams are still level, they will go into sudden-death penalties.

SECOND ROUND	
BRAZIL 381 (in Turin, June 24)	(0) 8 ARGENTINA (0) 1 Carugga 80
PARA Ginas 82 5,500 (after extra time; 1-1 at 90 min)	(0) 1 YUGOSLAVIA (0) 2 Stojkovic 77, 92 (in Verona, June 26)
OF THE LFTV	(0) 8 ROMANIA (0) 0

(After extra time: Rep of Ireland won 5-4 on penalties)		
(In Genoa, June 25)		
ITALY (0) 2	URUGUAY (0) 0	
Chilardi 85, Serena	73,303	
(In Rome, June 25)		
CZECH (1) 4	C RICA (0) 1	
Kubinyi 11, 62, 82	Gonzalez 55	
Jabik 76	47,573	
(In Bari, June 25)		
GERMANY (0) 2	NETHERLANDS (0) 1	

Germany 50, white 84	R Koeman (pen) 88
(in Milan, June 24)	
AMERICOON (0) 2 COLONBIA (0) 1	
Rta 105, 108	Reclin 115
	50,026
(after extra time, 0-0 at 90 min)	
(in Naples, June 29)	
WGLAND (0) 1 BELGIUM (0) 0	
tem 119	34,520
(after extra time)	
(in Rotterdam, June 30)	

Insider dealing could undermine Yugoslavs

ARGENTINA are hoping that Gabriel Calderon's knowledge of his Paris St Germain teammates, Susic and Vujovic, will help them overcome Yugoslavia in today's quarter-final in Florence.

Carlos Bilardo, the Argentinian coach, has picked Calderon to start a game for the first time in the tournament. "He knows several of their players and he looked good on the field."

Along with Maradona, who has made a good recovery from an injury to his left ankle, Calderon has been Argentina's main attacking weapon. Ivan Osim, the Yugoslavia coach, has delayed naming his team saying some of his players may not last the pace. "I know they can beat Argentina as footballers but I am not so sure about their physical condition over 90 minutes."

The stream of Eastern European players moving westward

has continued with Hasek, the Czechoslovakia captain, confirming he is to join Strasbourg. But Skuhravy, the leading scorer with five goals in four games, decided that he has signed for an Italian club.

In Milan tomorrow, Czechoslovakia face West Germany, who have scored 12 goals so far. Voller, who is suspended, is replaced by Riedle.

PROBABLE TEAMS: WEST GERMANY: 13 Began (Cologne), 14 T Berthold (Rome) or 2 S Reuter (Bayern Munich), 4 J Kohler (Bayern Munich), 5 R Augustin (Bayern Munich), 6 R Augustin (Bayern Munich), 7 P Linke (Bayern Munich), 8 J Rasmussen (Frankfurt), 9 J Rasmussen (Frankfurt), 10 J Rasmussen (Frankfurt), 11 J Rasmussen (Frankfurt), 12 J Rasmussen (Frankfurt), 13 J Rasmussen (Frankfurt).

Italy 3, Rep of Ireland 0 ENG qual

Italy 2, Rep of Ireland 1 F

WORLD CUP FIXTURES

Today	
Argentina v Yugoslavia (Florence, 4.00)	
Republic of Ireland v Italy (Rome, 8.00)	

Tomorrow	
Czechoslovakia v West Germany (Milan, 4.00)	
Cameroon v England (Naples, 8.00)	

TELEVISION	
Today	
BBC1 7.45-10pm: Coverage of Republic of Ireland v Italy from Rome.	
ITV 7.45-10pm: Coverage of Cameroon v England from Naples.	

YACHTS

Plymouth will see 77 vessels preparing for the two Tall Ships races, and striving for international understanding, including a small British brig, Astrid

The great contest for friendship

Seventy-seven sailing ships from 13 countries begin gathering in Plymouth this weekend for the start next Saturday of the annual Cutty Sark Tall Ships' races. By Wednesday the entire fleet, from the 386ft Soviet barque Sedov down to the 39ft sloop rigged Per Mare, with a crew of 14 naval cadets, will be on parade at Queen Anne's Battery Marina.

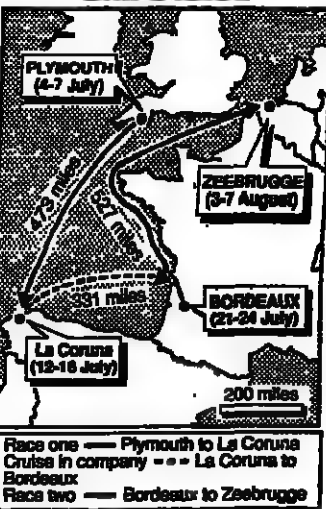
The festival includes 13 sailing ships of more than 100ft. Rivaling the Sedov with her crew of 242 cadets and officers from the Soviet fisheries ministry are the Chilean huge four-masted barquentine Esmeralda, two 159ft barquentines from Poland and Bulgaria, and Britain's twin top-sail schooner, Sir Winston Churchill and Malcolm Miller.

The gathering follows last year's spectacular scene in the Pool of London and rivals the size of Drake's force that scattered the Spanish Armada. Next Saturday the entire fleet will parade past Plymouth Hoe to salute Drake's achievement, before assembling outside the Sound for the Princess Royal to start the first leg of the race across the Bay of Biscay to La Coruna in Spain.

The square-riggers are expected to take five days to complete the 473-mile crossing. They set out again on July 16 on a 331-mile cruise in company to Bordeaux, before returning north to Zeebrugge early in August. In fact, these tall ship events are anything but a race. They are organised by the Sail Training Association, formed after the first gathering in 1956, and are intended to give youngsters a taste of adventure, the chance to push themselves to new heights of achievement, and to appreciate the value of working cohesively within a team.

The Cutty Sark Trophy at the end of the month-long race goes not to the first across the line but to the crew that has done most for international understanding and friendship. The real competition is to get on board in the first place, for berths on these ships, which cost up to £1,000, are all highly contested. This year more than

THE CUTTY SARK TALL SHIPS RACE



1,700 young people from 20 nations, ranging in age from 16 to 25, are taking up the challenge, many for the first time. Five boys from Pierrepont School in Surrey have entered the spirit of the occasion by signing up on the 159ft Polish barquentine Iskra to race against fellow pupils on the 52ft Polish-registered ketch, Panorama, which has been chartered for the race by the International Class Afloat Foundation. Shirley Hall, aged 17, from Symington, Ayrshire, was so determined that she has saved up her baby-sitting pay to sail in the Malcolm Miller, but many others have been helped by bursaries, grants and commercial sponsorship.

Howard Kay, from Bebington, Merseyside, whose sole experience to date has been a ferry trip across the Mersey, had his interest sparked by reading the tales of C.S. Forester, Alexander Kent and Dudley Pope. "I have never been before the mast and was surprised to be accepted as I am partially sighted. I was helped by my careers teacher and wrote off to local firms for help."

Caroline Patewood, from Dorchester-on-Thames, Oxfordshire, won her berth on the Winston Churchill through an essay competition. Julia and Sally Hills, two 16-year-olds from Brighton, ear-

ed their money the hard way, competing first in sponsored music and sports marathons. The sight of the tall ships six years ago in Liverpool led George Barber, of Wrexham, North Wales, to walk up Malcolm Miller's gang-plank at Plymouth this year. "I have always been interested in sailing," he says. "It is a tremendous experience. My father liked the idea and I persuaded him to pay half. The other half I will earn with local jobs."

Another relative "old salt" is Emma Heterington, from Sandown High School on the Isle of Wight. She earned £200 towards her passage on the Malcolm Miller working as an assistant in a library, supplemented by grants from the Lions, Round Table and Inner Wheel charity groups.

"Places on these tall ships are available to people from all walks of life, and even those with physical handicaps are catered for," says John Hamilton, the race director of the Sail Training Association. "We do not set out to teach people to sail. What we do is enable youngsters to work within a team made up from many walks of life, and to experience the sense of achievement and excitement of completing a voyage. Those interested in a voyage with us should contact the Association of Sea Training Organisations for a leaflet listing the addresses and costs."

The ships are on view from from Wednesday until Saturday and are open to the public from 2pm to 4pm every day. On Friday night the cadets will lead a torchlight procession along Plymouth Hoe at 9.30pm, followed by water tableaux and a fireworks display in the Sound. Next Saturday the parade of sail involving all 77 sailing vessels begins off Plymouth Hoe at 11am. The start is outside the breakwater at 3pm. This will be viewed best from Rame Head on the Cornish side of Plymouth Sound, or from one of the passenger ferries operating from Phoenix Wharf in the Barbican.

For details of voyages contact Association of Sea Training Organisations, RYA House, Romney Road, Eastleigh, Hampshire.



Sailor girl: Karen Rees under instruction from watch leader Mike Deuman on board the Astrid

Deep sea challenge for Karen

Twenty-two, standing barely over 5ft and already secure in that most secure of pensionable professions, the civil service, Karen Rees has just committed £4,000 of her own money and her far from overbuilt frame to an apprenticeship in a dying trade. She has signed on for her first three-month deep-sea voyage aboard the two-masted brig Astrid, plying the trade winds between England and the West Indies, and has already tasted the tough life of the deck apprentice under sail.

Astrid, one of 77 vessels in the Cutty Sark Tall Ships' races starting off Plymouth next week, is both unique and unusual among Britain's small fleet of sail training craft: unique because she is the only one committed to a programme of long, deep-ocean voyages, rather than the shorter, coastal trips; unusual because she is fully square-rigged and has only a modest auxiliary engine. Other big training ships have more powerful engines.

On Karen's first day at sea, Astrid under her enthusiastic master, David Norman, came off her berth at Ocean Village, Southampton, under power, began to make sail even as she turned and was already heeling to the breeze as she cleared the Dock Head. She worked her way down the tricky channel towards the Solent under sail alone, her fore upper 'gall' yard creaking its way aloft.

By lunchtime Karen was fast picking up an almost lost language that just two decades ago seemed condemned to survive only in bad movies and good sea shanties. Tacking (turning) a square-rigger is a co-ordinated team manoeuvre orchestrated by commands that have barely changed for two centuries, sung loud to the rattle of blocks, the squeaking of yards and the thump of heavy canvas: "Headsails, let go; main-sail, haul; foremast, let go and haul."

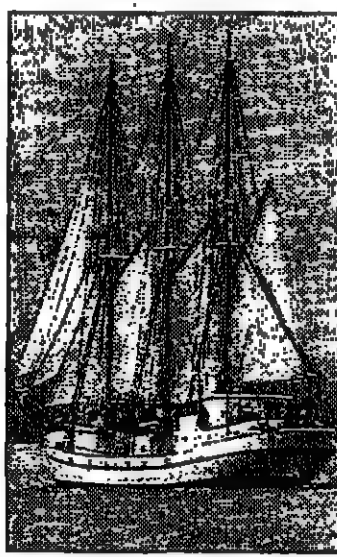
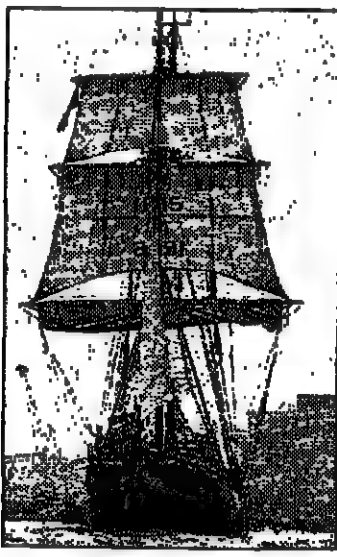
Built of iron after the first world war in The Netherlands, Astrid traded the North Sea and then the Baltic under sail, until in the early 1970s she was stripped of rig and dignity and turned into a motor coaster. She was sold to a Lebanese businessman and turned suspected smuggler until, being shadowed up-channel by a Customs cutter, she mysteriously burst into flames.

Her undisguisable lines attracted Graham Neilson, a former naval officer with a calling to take young people to sea under sail. With £1 million hard-earned capital, she fulfils Mr Neilson's dream but always hovers close to financial disaster. Taking the Astrid across the Atlantic costs £6,000 per berth. Of this, £2,000 is found by the Astrid Trust, the balance by the trainees. For some, "Daddy will pay." For others, including Karen, the money comes from hard-earned funds.

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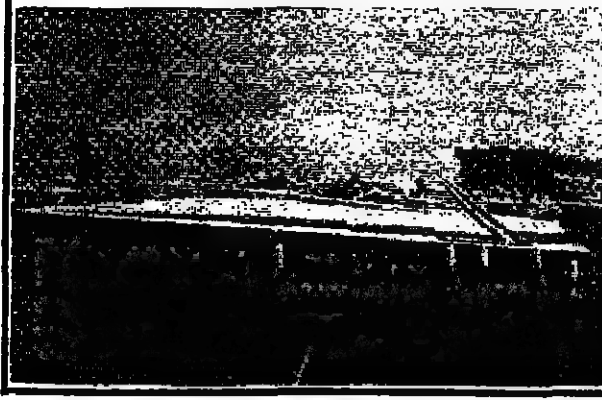
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It is like being in a high-speed car chase. You are really on the edge," said Geoff Cox, a 41-year-old would-be "waterbike" from Canterbury, after his first experience of gunning a machine through the bobbing buoys of the King George V Dock, owned by the Docklands Water Sports Club.

Marian Phillips, who runs the club, acknowledges the thrill but emphasises the value for City workers and others who find excitement enough in their work. "Waterbiking is a great stress-reliever," she says. "People like the idea of being able to skim across the water without anything to hold them back - control of your own destiny. With the wind

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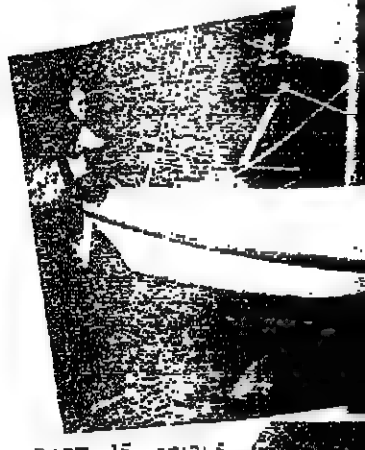
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WATER SPORTS

Thrills and spills of a water chase James Bond style

The latest water-sport craze to sweep Britain is wetbiking, a cross between water-skiing and motorbiking. Anthony Cox takes a look

For less than £20 you can play at being James Bond by tearing around at 40mph on a 798cc wetbike across choppy waters in London's Dockland. The experience is particularly good value because you get more than you expect — 40mph on water feels like 90mph on land.

"It is like being in a high-speed car chase. You are really on the edge," said Geoff Cox, a 17-year-old would-be wetbiker from Canterbury, after his first experience of gunning a machine through the bobbing buoys of the King George V Dock circuit of the Docklands Watersports Club. Marian Phillips, who runs the club, acknowledges the thrill but emphasises the value for City workers and others who find excitement enough in their working day. "Wetbiking is a great stress-reliever," she says. "People like the idea of being able to skim across the water without anything to hold them back."

"You are totally in control of your own destiny. With the wind

going through your hair and in control of a machine doing 40mph or more across the water, you can forget everything. You start off feeling wound up and can take your aggression out on the machine and the water."

The new water sports of wetbiking and jetskiing can both be practised at the Docklands club. "Riding a wetbike is just like travelling on a motorbike — you can even ride pillion. Unlike other water sports, wetbiking does not take long to learn. You can pick up the basics in 10 to 15 minutes and feel fairly confident after only a few hours," Mrs Phillips says.

"Jetskiing is very similar to wetbiking except that you begin in a kneeling position and then stand up when you are skimming across the water. You get all the freedom of water-skiing without needing a speed boat."

Riders do not need physical strength as much as a sense of balance and the ability to control a sensitive accelerator. They must not mind getting wet and a sense of humour may also help. "No

thrills without spills, I suppose," said Geoff Cox, who received a bump on his head when he parted company with his wetbike out in the middle of the dock.

Mrs Phillips admitted that at speeds "over 45mph you do stand a chance of hurting yourself", but claimed that the sport was safe enough when the rules were followed. Her oldest rider was 73 and the youngest just out of infant school.

"There is quite a cross-over from motorcycling. If you fall off a motorbike you get hurt; if you fall off a wetbike you get wet," she says. Most people get their first experience of wetbiking on holiday abroad. "Half of our 120-strong membership plays for fun and the rest are involved in it as a sport. There are national championships for wetbikes and jetskis, although there are no fully professional riders in Britain yet."

The sports are not recognised by the Sports Council, but the Royal Yachting Association is discussing adding "personal water craft" to

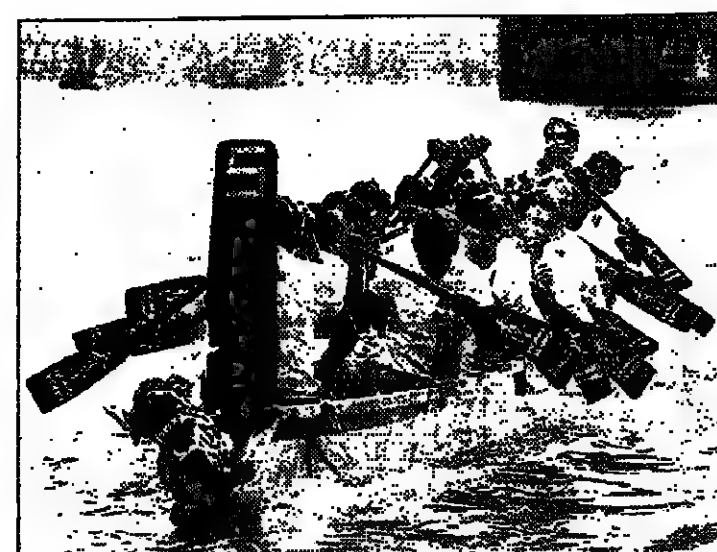


Learning the ropes: Geoff Cox and instructor Peter Beeson

its list of approved activities," Mrs Phillips says.

The sport is not cheap, with a wetbike costing about £3,750 and a less powerful jetski £3,045. A rider also needs a wetsuit, costing between £80 and £200, a £45 lifejacket, a trailer and insurance. A secondhand wetbike can be found for about £1,500.

For £19.50, Docklands Watersports provides an introductory lesson, with the necessary kit, a wetbike and basic instruction. "During the week is better than weekends for someone who wants to give the sport a bash," Mrs Phillips says. Wetbiking and jetskiing are all-year-round, all-weather sports. They are open to



Increasingly popular: the Chinese sport of dragon boat racing

all ages and both genders. "Recently, I have had more women telephoning than ever before," Mrs Phillips says.

The list of exciting watersports also includes canoeing, diving, hovering, power boating, rafting, sailing, surfing, wind-surfing and one of the newest arrivals in European waters, dragon boat racing — a 2,000-year-old Chinese sport which was resurrected in Hong Kong in 1976 and which is becoming increasingly popular in Britain since its introduction about eight years ago.

"Four years ago we had one event, today we take part in more than 60 at home and abroad and have a nationwide spread of crews and clubs," John Warren, of the British Dragon Boat Racing Association, says. The sport requires a team of 20 paddlers plus a steersman and a beat-keeping drummer to propel a 40ft long one-ton wooden or 250kg fibreglass boat over a 500 to 700 metre course as rapidly as possible. Decorations of a dragon's head

and tail on the boats give the sport, which has more than 5,000 UK paddlers, its name.

The best-known British team is the Kingston Royals, the Surrey-based national champions, who, earlier this month, missed out on a bronze medal in the world championships in Hong Kong by just 0.26 of a second. The Chinese winners covered 640m in 232.89 seconds; the Kingston Royals — fresh from a win in Taiwan, which was the first-ever British overseas victory in this sport — took 236.66 seconds.

Dragon boat racing is not elitist or expensive. "The beauty of it is that it attracts quite a few people into watersports who would not be able to get into canoeing or rowing clubs, including handicapped people," Mr Warren says.

• Marian Phillips, Docklands Watersports Club, King George V Dock, Woolwich Manor Way, London E16 2PU (071-311 7000); Mike Haslam, British Dragon Boat Racing Association, 4 Bassing Road, Newport, Gwent NP9 3EA.

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Executive Editor David Brewerton

BUSINESS

Curtain rises for high-tech exports to Eastern Europe

By DEREK HARRIS, INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

SUBSTANTIAL export prospects were opened up for British business yesterday as Nicholas Ridley, the trade secretary, promised a series of relaxations of controls on high technology exports to Eastern Europe. They are in line with agreements earlier this month at CoCom, the Paris-based non-treaty organisation that co-ordinates export controls on East-West trade.

In Britain, the main industrial benefit looks likely to go to the computer, telecommunications and machine tools industries, although a wide variety of goods are to be freed.

From this weekend, 30 industrial items will be freed, ranging from vacuum pumps and specialised electric devices to cathode ray tubes

and quartz crystals. Companies in the computer and telecommunications sectors particularly are welcoming the relaxations. STC-ICL, the cable and computer grouping, said: "For computer makers like ourselves this is very welcome. It will enhance our chances of increasing sales into Eastern Europe." It already has a joint venture in Poland and is a big supplier to Czechoslovakia.

There is already a high level of competition in computers in East European markets from manufacturers in non-CoCom countries in the Far East.

GPT, the telecommunications company owned by Britain's General Electric Company and West Germany's Siemens, said the changes "looked pretty good". GPT may receive the chance of substantial orders for System X, its digital

switching system. GPT is already running a field trial for System X operation in Moscow as an adjunct to a joint venture international payphone service there. It is also selling videotext equipment into Hungary. But GPT, like other exporters, will need assurance that any payment problems can be surmounted.

The Machine Tool Trades Association expects a boost for many of its 320 members from the relaxations. Some of the bigger machine tool makers in Britain are Cincinnati Millicron, Bridgeport Machines, Jones and Shipman, the 680 Group and Matrix-Churchill. Matrix, based in Coventry, and some others have already penetrated East European markets, creating a healthy export trade.

CoCom, which consists of the Nato countries

minus Iceland but including France, Australia and Japan, agreed to reduce the list of goods it controls down to a much shorter but more tightly managed one. Earliest freedom goes to items in 30 sections of the industrial list, which will allow exports under an open general licence and avoid considerable red tape.

Goods freed from tomorrow cover a wide range from steel-related items such as electric furnaces, metal rolling mills and a variety of electronic goods such as manufacturing equipment for printed circuit boards, semiconductor diodes and transistors. Also included are technology for industrial gas turbine engines, floating docks, oscilloscopes and steel alloys.

There are seven other items that will later be given more liberal treatment up to the so-called

"China Green Line", reflecting the more favoured status given to China some years ago. These include some robots and cameras, equipment for making special electronic devices or magnetic recordings, electronic testing equipment and assemblies of electronic components.

Greatest liberalisation is for East Germany where exports for most items on the industrial list will not need licences provided exporters obtain an end-user certificate.

With a third of the industrial list freed this weekend the further liberalisations should be in place over the next few months, said Mr Ridley. The CoCom agreement would result in "far more opportunities" for British exporters, he added.

The new and shorter core list of controlled items is expected early next year.

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W German mark 2.9046 (+0.0049)
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FT-SE 100 2374.6 (+18.9)
New York Dow Jones 2885.40 (+6.69)
Tokyo Nikkei Ave 3194.24 (-165.95)
Closing Prices ... Page 45
Major indices and major changes Page 42

INTEREST RATES

London: Bank Base 15%
3-month interbank 14 1/2-14 3/4%
3-month deposit 14 1/4-14 1/2%
US Prime Rate 10%
Federal Funds 8 1/4%
3-month Treasury Bill 7 1/4-7 7/8%
30-year bond 10 5/8-10 3/4%

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SE investigates allegations of market rigging

By NEIL BENNETT, BANKING CORRESPONDENT

THE Stock Exchange is investigating allegations of market rigging after complaints of a struggle between securities houses to influence the FT-SE 100 index during the expiry of index traded options and futures.

The London International Financial Futures Exchange, which runs London's FT-SE index futures trading, has suspended the final pricing of June futures until the enquiry is completed. Until then Liffe will hold back more than £1 million from futures bargains to cover any adjustment.

The Stock Exchange may also alter its June FT-SE option rate if its enquiry uncovers any evidence of errors in trading.

Investigators are expected to look into a period of trading yesterday when one broker was offering to buy shares in large companies, including British Telecom, British Gas and BP, for higher prices than other houses were selling for—known as backwading.

The backwading was partly caused by Goldman

Sachs, the American securities house, which was bidding aggressively. This continued between 11.10 and 11.20 am when the index price for the FT-SE index options was struck. At the same time some securities houses, principally BZW, started discounting stock until their prices went below Goldman's bids.

Backwading can mean instant profits for dealers who notice it, but brokers complained their calls were not being taken by Goldman or BZW to make the trades.

"This will be very damaging for the London market indeed," said an options trader.

By the afternoon, when the options and futures index had been struck, Goldman started selling stock. Goldman defended its action, saying all its trading was done for clients.

"We had an extremely active day," said a spokesman in New York. "We had a substantial number of transactions to consummate in the market. Throughout the day we honoured all bids and offers to both customers and dealers."

Goldman normally has six

London market-makers, but is thought to have drafted in an extra five to cover the work, much of it options-related. Its compliance officer was on the floor all day.

But brokers questioned whether Goldman had the capacity to handle the trading position it took.

Howard Coates, the chief executive of BZW's equities division, denied that his traders had not answered their telephones. "Goldman was very aggressive this morning and as a result the market went significantly better at the expiry of options and futures," he said.

The Stock Exchange said: "We have received a large number of complaints and we would automatically look into them." The SE's investigators are expected to interview traders next week.

Liffe is setting June FT-SE futures on the provisional index level of 2,378.5. But until the investigation is over, it is holding back £100 per lot, worth almost £60,000 each, to cover possible adjustments.

Market report, page 42

MP tables Dunsdale questions

By ANGELA MACKAY

TIM SMITH, a Conservative party MP, has tabled questions to the Department of Trade and Industry on the Dunsdale Securities affair, particularly in reference to the group's auditors.

According to the most recent report and accounts filed at Companies House, Dunsdale's auditors, David A Rose & Co of Borehamwood, near London, charged £862 for audit and accountancy fees in 1988 for Dunsdale Securities and £402 for Dunsdale Guarantee. In the previous

year, David A Rose charged £460 and £365 respectively. A senior accountant said yesterday: "Personal tax returns for the average earner can cost much more than this. If this company was managing several million pounds of investments, I would suggest an audit fee several times higher."

Yesterday, an informal meeting of Dunsdale's 200 creditors was told by the provisional liquidators that they had found about £360,000 of assets that could

be realised. They have also located assets worth almost £2 million that were unlikely to be recovered.

The liquidators said that a Mercedes, a Porsche Carrera convertible, several paintings, and the contents of a Barclays Bank account were among the assets to be realised.

Dunsdale Securities, has been charged with obtaining money by deception and remanded in custody. Creditors lost £17 million when the investment company collapsed earlier this month.



Looking for benefits of scale and synergy between the two companies: Tom Harrison, Norfolk House chairman

Frost warms to Norfolk bid

By MATTHEW BOND

NORFOLK House, the petrol retailer and property group, has launched a £60 million bid for Frost Group, which has similar interests.

The bid is being recommended by the Frost board, led by James Frost, chairman. The directors and a group of institutions have given irrevocable acceptances for 40.2 per cent of Frost shares.

If the bid succeeds, the combined group will have more than 200 garages selling up to 150 million gallons of petrol a year. As one of the largest independent fuel retailers, it would have more than 2 per cent of the British market.

Tom Harrison, Norfolk chairman, believes the companies are a good fit. "They have three divisions — petrol retailing, property services and sales promotion. We have three divisions — petrol retailing, property development and sales promotion. Within each of the three divisions you might expect to find some benefits of scale and synergy."

In particular, Mr Harrison believes the

group's enlarged purchasing power could produce substantial savings when buying fuel. "Even a penny off a gallon could make a big difference." The enlarged group's medium-term target will be to own and operate about 250 fuel stations.

Norfolk House is offering one new share and 200p cash for every Frost share. Norfolk House shares eased 3p to 218p on news of the bid, leaving the offer worth 418p a share. Frost's shares rose 52p to 410p.

In January, Norfolk House raised £21 million via a rights issue and has been seeking the right acquisition ever since. The company will be issuing another 14 million new shares as part consideration for Frost.

Richard Lambert, the finance director, says gearing after the acquisition will rise to about 90 per cent after a revaluation of Frost's assets but should fall to 50-60 per cent by the November year-end.

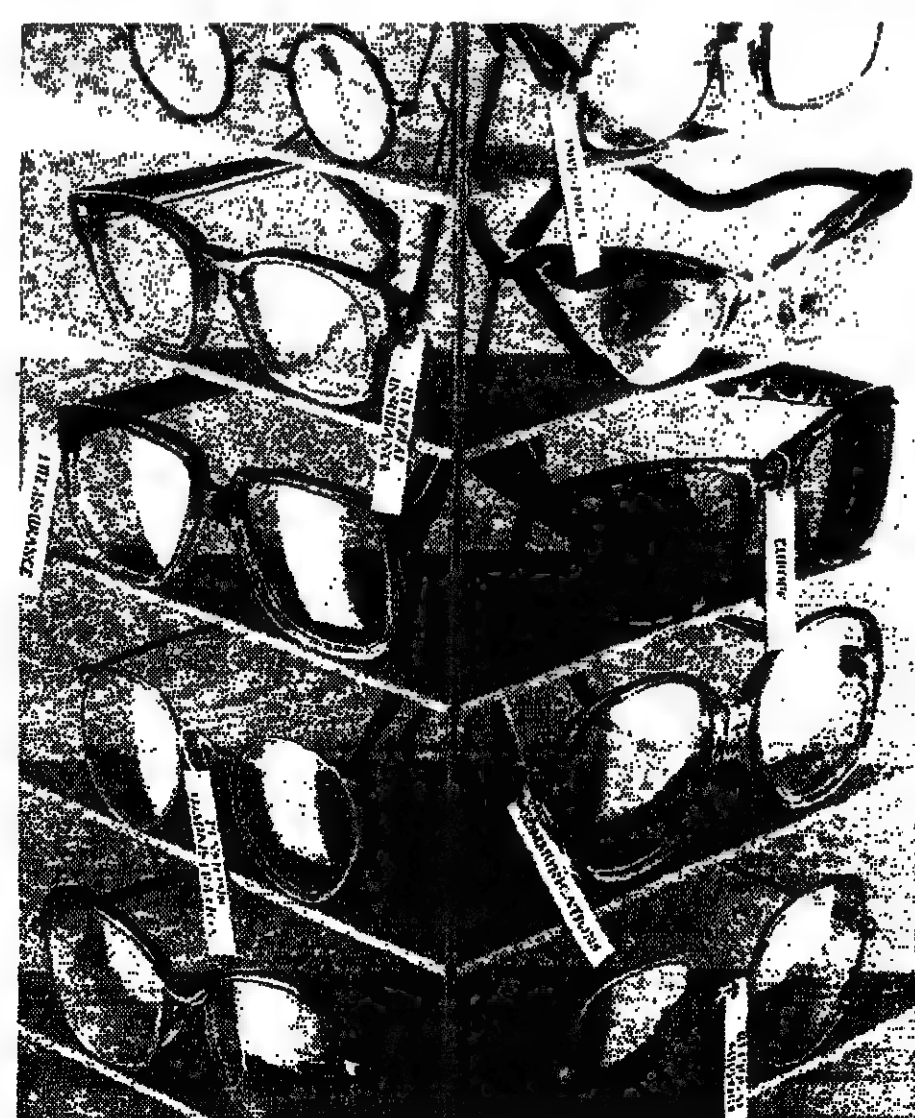
Mr Harrison says he hopes managerial job losses can be avoided, despite the duplication in the two petrol retailing

divisions. He hopes that management will transfer to Norfolk House's incipient Spanish operation, or to Truikers, the company's new fuel and food stop for lorry drivers. "We are hopeful there will be surplus quality management that would be available for these new operations," he said.

Norfolk has seven Truikers open and has a further 23 in development. It plans a total of 50, plus a further 30 in Spain.

Frost owns a small banking operation, Raphael. This is to be bought by Mr Frost for £3.5 million, a transfer that has been approved by the Bank of England. Mr Frost will be leaving the group when the bid becomes unconditional.

In the year to December, Frost made pre-tax profits of £5 million on a turnover of £75 million. In the year to September, Norfolk House made pre-tax profits of £8.7 million on a turnover of £93 million. Analysts' estimates for the enlarged group's profits in the 14 months to November were between £17 million and £20 million.



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Girobank sale attacked

By OUR BANKING CORRESPONDENT

THE Labour party has called on the National Audit Office to investigate the sale of Girobank to the Alliance & Leicester building society. The deal will go through on Monday for less than the £130 million originally agreed despite the bank's record profits.

Nicholas Ridley, the trade secretary, will announce the completion of the bank's disposal from the Post Office, and the final price, to the Commons. Last-minute adjustments to the price will cut it to less than the bank's net asset value of £116.5 million.

By contrast, the sale of Yorkshire Bank to National Australia Bank for £975 million last January, represented more than two and a half times its book value.

The price has been cut for two reasons. Girobank has been forced to sell its leasing companies to Norwich Union for £349 million to comply

with the terms of the Building Societies Act. The bank has also made losses, estimated at £15 million, on a portfolio of gilts, which will also be taken off the price.

Doug Henderson, a Labour trade spokesman, attacked the privatisation of the bank. "I would certainly want the NAO to examine whether the right valuation was made in the light of the Rover deal," he said.

"If Alliance & Leicester knew that the government has an obsession to privatise at any price, it could hold out for better terms which the taxpayer would have to meet. There has been such indecision over this... sale for two years that neither the staff nor the customers have known what their future will be."

However, Ken Young, the chairman of Girobank and deputy chairman of the Post Office, said: "The bank is being sold at a market price

established by a full international bidding process based on four criteria as well as price."

The sale was also defended by City commentators. "This is in no way an issue like the Rover sale. Girobank is a unique bank which has its own price. It is a good deal for Alliance, but it cannot be compared to Yorkshire Bank," said Dr John Wrigglesworth, an analyst at UBS Phillips & Drew, the broker.

Girobank's figures for the year to March 29 were published separately from those of the Post Office for the first time yesterday. Operating profits in its 21st anniversary year rose 40 per cent to a record £30.3 million.

This was despite a 58 per cent increase in bad debt provisions to £38 million. The bank blamed the extra write-off on sustained high interest rates and the economy's slower growth.

Bailiffs hold Ferriday after court hearing

By OUR CITY STAFF

JOHN Ferriday, the former chairman and chief executive of Eagle Trust, was arrested yesterday, seconds after being bailed on a £13.5 million fraud charge.

The businessman was detained by bailiffs from Northampton County Court for allegedly failing to attend a bankruptcy hearing last year.

Mr Ferriday, aged 45, was taken to Northampton in a police van and will spend the weekend in a cell.

Earlier, he was granted bail in the sum of £175,000 from Halesowen magistrates after £13.5 million from Eagle Trust, which is based in West Midlands town.

He agreed to surrender his passport, report daily to police and reside at his mother's house.

His former partner, Richard Smith, aged 39, of Admaston, Telford, Shropshire, faces the same charge. He was bailed in

the sum of £150,000 and both men were remanded until September 27.

Mr Ferriday, of Warwick Road, Solihull, West Midlands, was arrested on Thursday after arriving at Manchester airport on a flight from Texas.

Stephen Fox, defending, said Mr Ferriday always wanted to return to Britain to clear his name. He "took the positive step and contacted police to arrange with them the time and flight when he would be returning to this country."

Mr Fox said after Mr Ferriday was arrested by the bailiffs: "My client is in good spirits but disappointed because he thought the county court matter could be dealt with immediately after the hearing. But a registrar cannot be found and my client will have to stay in a police cell until Monday or Tuesday."

Diamond investors seek DTI enquiry

By MELINDA WITSTOCK

WORRIED investors in Diamond Group Holdings, the Glasgow mechanical breakdown insurance broker whose shares have been suspended since October, have asked the Department of Trade and Industry to appoint inspectors to investigate the affairs of the company.

Allied Provincial, the Scottish stockbroker, which resigned as Diamond's financial adviser shortly after the share suspension, said yesterday that it had attended a meeting at the DTI at which it had "brought several matters" concerning Diamond to the department's attention.

The stockbroker is still awaiting an official response from the department, which said that it could not

comment on whether it is to proceed with an investigation.

Institutional investors pressing for an enquiry say that they have not been given an adequate explanation as to why the newly-quoted Diamond has not received interim results due in October. They also say they have not received copies of two separate reports by the accountant Touche Ross and the auditor Arthur Andersen & Co, completed earlier in the year.

Steve Brown, a fund manager at Postal Investment Trust, which holds 4.8 per cent of Diamond, said: "The situation is dramatically different from three months ago. Several people are now quite close to establishing the underlying situation at Diamond." The situation was

causing concern, said Mr Brown. Elizabeth Kennedy, a director of Allied Provincial Corporate Services, said that she could not comment on any new findings at Diamond "for legal reasons".

Michael Housley, who took over as Diamond's chief executive after the resignation of Derek Diamond in April, told the institutions at a hastily-organised extraordinary meeting yesterday that they would have to wait until the company publishes a report on the matter by August 31 before their questions can be answered.

The 1989 accounts, expected to show a loss of £2 million, are now unlikely to be ready before mid-August. The 1985 Companies Act stipulates that public companies must report

results within seven months of their year-end, giving Diamond until July.

Postal and Prudential also complained that yesterday's meeting contravened Stock Exchange regulations requiring that all circulars be approved before going out to shareholders.

Diamond is also said to be breaking the rules because it does not have a financial adviser. Edinburgh Financial Trust resigned a few months ago.

Diamond has blamed its problems on mismanagement in the administration and claims handling of its mechanical breakdown insurance business in Yorkshire, which has now been sold.

The company was placed on the USM in April last year.

Gamles to pay £ for Br

By ANNE M...

GAMLESTADEN AB, the Swedish financial services group, has made an agreed bid for Broom, British & Continental, a service arm that was bought out by management for £35 million 140 years ago.

The Swedes approached Broom late last year but the company was examining the possibility of acquisition. Broom's management, led by Julian Lee, eventually accepted an offer of £137.5 million from Gamlestad. Lee, who had been a director of Broom since 1985, was seen as a fair negotiator, who had been on the Stock Exchange at a difficult time.

Price's 13.5 million employee shareholders have received a return of 25 times their original investment. Mr Lee, who had invested £100,000, will receive £25 million and will become chairman of the company.

Unlike other management buy-outs, however, senior management has the same proportion of the share as the rest of the staff. In the Broom 1989, 15 top executives received 15 times their original subscription price while other employees were paid only four times their investment.

Through Broom Ltd, a wholly-owned subsidiary, the Swedes are offering £196.5 million for the share capital and will retain Broom's debt of £120 million.

Broom has already met its 1990 debt schedule and has put aside the debt for next year.

Return to net profit at Cullen's

By GILLIAN BROWN

CULLEN'S, the chain of 25 grocers and delicatessen stores, made a net profit for the first time in more than five years.

Cullen's made a pre-tax loss of £158,000 over from a loss of £159,000 in the exceptional year. The group's profit of £757,000 gave the group a profit after tax of £114,000, compared with a loss of £4.9 million. Earnings per share were 0.5p compared with a loss per share of 0.2p. There is no dividend.

Turnover fell from £156 million to £154 million because the group introduced a type of franchise called the partnership scheme. Turnover in the last part of the year represented the sales generated by the new part, but turnover in the last part represents the profit contribution from the stores under the partnership scheme.

The scheme, introduced in May last year, gives the shop operators a share in the profits. The group has also introduced a full franchise scheme in three stores (three that as a consequence of these schemes, the performance of the stores has improved considerably).

The directors intend to apply to court to enable the company to reduce its share premium account in order to create a reserve against which accumulated losses may be written off. The group says that this is a well-established procedure that will let it pay dividends to shareholders at an earlier stage than might otherwise be possible.

The shares rose 1p to 36p.

Conference

Market of cap

By MARTIN WALLER

A FORMIDABLE delegation of the great, the good and the superannuated met in Edinburgh this week to celebrate the life and works of Adam Smith, the founding father of modern capitalism, who died in the city on July 17, 1790.

A strong scent of historical triumphalism hung over the conference, named after the economist's most celebrated work, marked the bicentenary.

Most of the delegates stopped short of taking pernicious changes that have taken place in Eastern Europe since the idea of the conference was first mooted 18 months ago.

However, members of the World Business Forum, which organised the conference, did congratulate themselves on centralised planning and the demise of communism as a world creed had conveniently coincided with their celebration.

With their "invisible hand of the marketplace" coupled perhaps with a registration fee

Gamlestaden to pay £337m for Bricom

By ANGELA MACKAY

GAMLESTADEN AB, the Swedish financial services group, has made an agreed bid for Bricom, British & Commonwealth's service arm that was bought out by management for £359 million two years ago.

The Swedes approached Bricom late last year but the company was examining the possibility of flotation. Bricom's management, led by Julian Lee, eventually accepted an offer of £337.5 million from Gamlestaden yesterday, which seemed a fair alternative to listing on the Stock Exchange at a difficult time.

Bricom's 1,300 employee shareholders have received a return of 25 times their original investment. Mr Lee, who invested £100,000, will receive the biggest payment of £2.5 million and will become chairman of the company.

Unlike other management buyouts however, senior management has the same proportional payout as the rest of the staff. In the Reedpack MBO, top executives received 35 times their original subscription price while other employees were paid only four times their investment.

Through Rochfield Ltd, a wholly-owned vehicle, the Swedes are offering £198.5 million for the share capital and will refinance Bricom's debt of £139 million.

Bricom has already met its 1990 debt schedule and has put aside the cash for next

year. Investors in the MBO, such as Baring Capital Investors, will be repaid four times their investment plus equity.

When the MBO was completed it was the most highly leveraged deal the market had witnessed, with only £39 million of equity compared with the total value of the MBO of £359 million. In two years however, Bricom's management has sold £180 million of assets, including businesses in South Africa, hotels in Britain and time quaries in Canada, and at the same time increased operating profit.

Alan Johns, chief executive of Gamlestaden plc, the British subsidiary, said his company was attracted by Bricom's leading position in most of its markets and believed they could add more value. He said Bricom would be left as a subsidiary and that flotation in Britain or another market would be discussed in the medium term.

Gamlestaden AB, which is 48 per cent owned by Nobel Industries, was floated almost a year ago. It has a market capitalisation of about £110 million and will make a rights issue to raise an additional £32 million. The rest of the finance for the takeover will be provided by Nordbanken Group.

Apart from financial services, the company has a joint venture in aircraft leasing with Guinness Peat Aviation. One of Bricom's primary businesses is Bristol Helicopters.

Buoyant Dowty up to £85.4m



Lord Harrowby: leading the aerospace and electronics group with an order book of £762m

By OUR CITY STAFF

DOWTY, the aerospace and electronics group, has reported higher-than-expected profits for 1989 and moved further away from dependence on the defence industry by announcing a £45 million investment in a new landing gear facility in Canada.

Pre-tax profits rose 8 per cent to £85.4 million based on a 22 per cent increase in turnover to £730.9 million. A final dividend of 5.5p was declared taking the full-year payment to 9p compared with 8p.

Dowty, whose group chairman is the Earl of Harrowby, has an order book valued at £762 million. But analysts said contracts for the landing gear for the A340 and A330 Airbus boosted the order book to about £3 billion in the long term. The total value of the Airbus programme is more than \$800 million.

"It was a difficult first half with strikes in the UK and Canada in addition to two customers suffering from industrial disputes, so the final result is a good one, particularly since property sales did not inflate the profits markedly," according to Sandy Morris of County Natwest, the broker.

Tony Thatcher, chief executive of Dowty, said the company's exposure to the cancellation of the government's Tornado order was "negligible".

He said: "The effect of Tornado on turnover would be £3.5 million this year and £8 million next year. About 30 per cent of total sales will be derived from defence contracts in the current year."

Dowty intends to maintain and develop its anti-submarine programme because it is probably one of the last areas that may be affected by government cuts to defence spending.

Ed Wright, aerospace analyst at BZW, said: "Dowty's problem was transforming itself into a non-defence stock and that has been achieved successfully at a fast pace."

The Canadian government has supported the new landing gear facility with a long-term low interest loan of Can\$36 million (£17.73 million).

Operating profit for the aerospace division rose 14 per cent to £46.2 million, supported by growth in civil programmes. Profits at the electronics systems division eased slightly to £10.6 million after a loss at one unit and the company's investment into the Type 23 frigate command system.

Information technology profits rose 26 per cent to £21.7 million while the Polymer engineering division contribution grew from £11.3 million to £13.6 million.

Return to net profit at Cullen's

By GILLIAN BOWDITCH

CULLEN'S Holdings, the chain of 26 grocery and delicatessen stores, made a net profit for the year to February for the first time in more than five years.

Cullen's made a pre-tax loss of £268,000, down from a loss of £1.89 million, but an exceptional property profit of £757,000 gave the group a profit, after tax, of £119,000, compared with a loss of £4.9 million. Earnings per share were 0.5p, compared with a loss per share of 23.6p. There is no dividend.

Turnover fell from £13.6 million to £7.4 million because the group has introduced a type of franchise called the partnership scheme. Turnover in the early part of the year represents the sales generated by the stores, but turnover in the latter part represents the profit contribution from the stores under the partnership scheme.

The scheme, introduced in May last year, gives the shop operators a share in the profits. The group has also introduced a full franchise scheme in three stores. It says that, as a consequence of these schemes, the performance of the stores has improved considerably.

The directors intend to apply to court to enable the company to reduce its share premium account in order to create a reserve against which accumulated losses may be written off. The group says that this is a well-established procedure that will let it pay dividends to shareholders at an earlier stage than might otherwise be possible.

The shares rose 1p to 36p.

Yorkshire Water tops forecast

By MARTIN BARROW

YORKSHIRE Water profits were slightly ahead of its privatisation forecast, despite one of this century's worst droughts.

Pre-tax profits were £57.7 million, against the prospectus forecast of £54 million, for the year to end-March.

Shareholders who have retained their investment - 96,000 of an initial 215,000 still hold shares - receive a dividend of 10.28p, as expected.

Pro-forma profits, allowing for debt write-offs and cash injections, which took place as part of privatisation, were £101.3 million, exceeding estimates by £3.3 million. Pro-forma earnings per share were 46.5p.

While Yorkshire Water was

coping with drought, capital spending was restricted to £189 million, £2 million lower than estimated at flotation.

Group turnover rose from £307.8 million to £354.7 million, but an increase in operating costs, from £193.4 million to £260 million, left operating profits a clear £20 million lower at £94.4 million. The interest charge fell from £58.7 million to £36.7 million.

Sir Gordon Jones, the chairman, said the company's priority now was to streamline the business to achieve savings over the next two years.

Yorkshire Water was also seeking investment opportunities in markets related to existing assets and skills. The shares rose 1p to 165p.

● Roy Watts, Thames Water's

chairman, has been given a pay rise of £41,000 to well over £100,000. Mike Hoffman, the chief executive, was paid £157,435.

The figures, revealed in the annual report, have angered consumers faced with 4.5 per cent rises above inflation over the next nine years.

Andrew Smith, Labour MP for Oxford East, said: "Mr Watts is obviously not going to have any problem paying his water bill. But very many customers of Thames Water are facing great difficulty in meeting bills."

"They will regard such an increase as over the top."

"I am sure he would argue that privatisation has been to the benefit of the customers but a lot of people will think it

has been to the benefit of senior staff and shareholders."

Tom Curtis, a spokesman for Thames Water, defended the increase. He said: "We are talking about one of the top 100 companies and the salary levels are not in any way high compared to other top companies."

"We are investing £4 billion over 10 years. You have to have high-calibre people to ensure money like that is well used. To manage a resource like that, and be efficient, you have to have top people."

A spokesman for Lowbells Financial Company, which deals with Thames Water's results, said: "The 4.5 per cent above inflation is needed to finance projects to improve the service."

Asprey shines with 19.7% rise in profit

By OUR CITY STAFF

ASPREY, the Bond Street jeweller quoted on the Unlisted Securities Market, is one of the few retailers to report strong results. Pre-tax profits for the year to March rose 19.7 per cent to £21.8 million, on sales of £75.3 million, up 21.3 per cent.

Earnings per share rose 20.8 per cent to 18.5p and the final dividend is 3.25p, making 4.35p for the year - an increase of 19.7 per cent. Shares in the group rose 5p to 420p.

Mr John Asprey, the chairman, said: "Current trading is satisfactory, although the retail trade is going through a

very difficult period. We are bound to be affected by the present economic uncertainties, but it is hard to predict to what extent."

The group had an exceptionally good first half last year. It sells items of high value, such as the gold, rock crystal and semi-precious stone fountain costing more than £500,000, or 18-carat gold personal stereos, retailing for £40,000 each. Asprey does not depend on high turnover volume in the way most retailers do and is protected from the effects of the consumer downturn by a strong international clientele.

Refinancing sought by G&G Kynoch

THE G&G Kynoch textile group is seeking a refinancing after a difficult six months.

Pre-tax losses jumped from £30,000 to £143,000 in the six months to February.

There is no interim dividend. Sales rose from £1.87 million to £1.99 million. The interest charge climbed from £168,000 to £286,000 and the loss per share was 6.5p compared with 36.3p. There is no interim dividend.

The group is seeking an injection of equity capital to bring down borrowings and is considering proposals to diversify the group.

The shares were unchanged at 180p after the news.

Conference delegates hail collapse of communism

Market forces mar celebration of capitalism's triumphs

By MARTIN WALLER

A FORMIDABLE delegation of the great, the good and the supernumerary met in Edinburgh this week to celebrate the life and works of Adam Smith, the founding father of modern capitalism, who died in the city on July 17, 1790.

A strong scent of historical triumphalism hung over the city as the Wealth of Nations conference, named after the economist's most celebrated work, marked the bicentenary.

Most of the delegates stopped short of taking personal credit for the momentous changes that have taken place in Eastern Europe since the idea of the conference was first mooted 18 months ago.

However, members of the World Business Forum, which organised the conference, did congratulate themselves on their timing. The collapse of centralised planning and the demise of communism as a world creed had conveniently coincided with their celebration.

Alas, the "invisible hand of the marketplace", coupled perhaps with a registration fee



Chalfont: security changes

of £1,750 plus VAT, had a detectable influence on the conference.

The venue, initially set for the Usher Hall, Edinburgh's answer to the Royal Albert Hall, was hurriedly switched to the smaller Royal Lyceum Theatre, where it shared pride of place with evening performances of the Neil Simon comedy *The Odd Couple*.

The organisers had budgeted for an audience of 200. At times less than a tenth of that figure were in attendance. Delegates to the conference

were by and large hardy veterans of the global conference round, that jet-hopping fraternity that takes in retired politicians, business magnates and bankers.

Also in attendance were an assortment of writers and academics. Doris Lessing, the writer, who combines an African upbringing with a staunch anti-communism, spoke on the role of women. Paul Johnson, writer, historian and scourge of the loony left, gave an impassioned speech calling for an expanded European super-state to take in Russia, the Ukraine and the newly-liberated East.

Lord Chalfont, formerly of the Foreign Office and now chairman of the submarine maker VSEL, talked about the changing security requirements of the new world order.

The most trenchant attack on the communist system came from the East. Jerzy Surdykowski of Jagiellonian University in Krakow, Poland, said Mikhail Gorbachev was the first Soviet dictator unable to stop the unavoidable destruction of communism in Central Europe.

Everywhere there was the sound of Adam Smith's ideas being shoe-horned into the requisite ideology. A speaker from the World Bank thought that the economist would have been dismayed at the continuing gap between the prosperous West and the poverty-stricken Third World.

Dr Gerald Corrigan of the Federal Reserve said he thought Adam Smith would have been in favour of regulation of world banking.

Perhaps the most audacious ideological hijacking came from Tom Clausen, chairman of the Bank of America, who claimed that capitalism and self-interest, central to Adam Smith's *The Wealth of Nations*, were essentially amoral concepts. The injection of morality, he claimed, was the duty of the international banks.

He was also one of many speakers to play the green card for all it was worth. "The investments we support must not only be economically sound, they must also be those that protect the environment," he said. His speech stressed the need for internationalism.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

York Trust rises 12% but purchases hit eps

YORK Trust, the investment banker being transformed into a worldwide money broker, increased pre-tax profits 12 per cent to £9.5 million in the year to end-March. But the recent run of acquisitions led to a drop in earnings per share, down 44 per cent to 7.1p.

The dividend is being held at 1.7p to make 2.7p for the year. York is being renamed Babcock Prebon, after its two largest money-broking subsidiaries, Babcock & Brown and Fulton Prebon. The London, New York and Far East businesses are being merged to form Babcock Fulton Prebon. During the year, York sold PPF, its portfolio management subsidiary, and disposed of two-thirds of its £6.6 million investment portfolio.

EDP interims Sandell drops at half-time

ELECTRONIC Data Processing, the computer distributor, reported pre-tax profits up from £373,000 to £822,000 for the six months to end-March. Earnings per share rose from 3.41p to 7.14p. An interim dividend of 0.775p (0.7p) is being paid. Turnover rose from £7.6 million to £8.33 million, reflecting an increase in computer sales and higher maintenance revenue.

SANDELL Group, a manufacturer and supplier of office partitioning and suspended ceilings, reports pre-tax profits down from £155,000 to £66,000 for the six months to the end of March. The interim dividend is held at 1.7p. Earnings per share fell from 4.5p to 1.9p. The results had been affected by a weak second quarter. The Sandell Interlock subsidiary lost £57,000.

No dividend at Vistec

A SHARP downturn in the second half of the financial year has prompted Vistec not to provide a final dividend for the 12 months to the end of April. The USM-quoted computer services group paid an interim dividend of 0.1p.

All operating companies have been acquired since October 1988, resulting in taxable profits of £1.59 million for the year not being directly comparable with profits of £1.19 million for the previous year. Earnings per share from current operations were 0.92p (0.86p). Bob Morton, the chairman, formerly head of Burgess Products, said that trading during the final six months of the year was unsatisfactory and progress in the first half, when profits were £1.2 million before tax, had not been maintained.

SRH bid goes unconditional Lilley to buy Piper firms

A RECOMMENDED £12.8 million offer for Optim, the USM computer software group, by Systems Reliability Holdings, has gone unconditional, acceptances of 81.35 per cent of the company being received by the first closing date. Directors and major shareholders of Optim had undertaken to accept the offer in respect of 40.3 per cent of the company.

LILLEY, the construction group, is buying Piper Commerce Group and Piper Building Hire for a maximum profit-related consideration of £1.53 million in shares. Piper, based in Huddersfield, makes and supplies prefabricated buildings. In the year to end-March, Piper group's pre-tax profits were £161,000. Piper will become part of Lilley Ventures.

C&S revives dividend

CENTRAL & Sheerwood has returned to the dividend list after posting pre-tax profits up 135 per cent to £2.55 million for the year to December. The engineering and property company, in which Robert Maxwell's Headington Investments has a 29.5 per cent stake, is paying a 0.1p final dividend, the first since 1982. Earnings per share rose by 93 per cent to 0.54p. C&S shares rose 0.5p to 4.25p.

Sales improved 37 per cent to £50 million. This was mainly due to the improvement at the engineering division where pre-tax profits increased 175 per cent to £1.95 million. Mr Maxwell, the chairman, says the group made an excellent start to 1990, although the aluminium founder AL Dunn was affected by industrial action at its biggest customer.

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James Capel offers two routes into these lucrative markets.

Our European Special Situations Fund is designed to give long-term capital growth in the established stockmarkets of Continental Europe.

Alternatively our European Index

Fund aims to track accurately the performance of the total capitalisation of the European stockmarkets.

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NAME

ADDRESS

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James Capel

UNIT TRUSTS FROM THE GLOBAL INVESTMENT HOUSE

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T2/EP

The Bundesbank president gives warning that the cost of reunification could lead to higher German interest rates

THE president of the Bundesbank, Karl Otto Pohl, has expressed concern that German interest rates might have to rise if too much money is spent on German reunification. He also said monetary union could lead to the German economy oversteering.

"I do not want to make forecasts of interest rates. But the development of interest rates will depend on the additional spending for unification, and particularly the way it will be financed," he said in an interview with *The Times*.

My worry is that the western German economy may over-heat. For the second year running we have had a growth rate of 4 per cent in real terms, which is extraordinarily high by our standards. Unemployment will present an additional problem, and we have to ensure that this will not result in surplus demand."

"They [the state and regional governments] should take German unity into account in their spending plans, but unfortunately this is not always the case. That is why we have some inflationary tendencies in the construction sector for example."

"What I have criticised is the tendency to finance the additional spending through the capital markets. I personally would have preferred there to have been more enterprise savings, in particular on the part of the states and local governments, whose financial position is very strong. To encourage stronger savings."

But he said the rate of inflation in West Germany would not top 3 per cent this year or next, partly because of the high mark interest rates. Can-

IN MARKET RATES ARE ABOUT 9

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1	Pharmacies	88	45
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1. The first part of the document is a list of names and their corresponding addresses. The names are listed in a column on the left, and the addresses are listed in a column on the right. The names are: John Doe, Jane Smith, Robert Brown, Mary White, and David Green. The addresses are: 123 Main St, 456 Elm St, 789 Oak St, 101 Pine St, and 202 Cedar St.

Portfolio PLATINUM

From your Portfolio Platinum card check your eight share price movements on this page only. Add these prices to your running total for the week and check this against the weekly dividend figure on this page. If it matches this figure, you have won outright or a share of the total weekly prize money stated. If you win, follow the claim procedure on the back of your card. You must always have your card available when claiming. Game rules appear on the back of your card.

No.	Company	Group	Gain or Loss
1	Sainsbury (sa)	Food	1.00
2	Fisher (A)	Food	1.00
3	Wilson Bowden	Building/Roads	1.00
4	Alfred Lyons (sa)	Breweries	1.00
5	Meyer Int	Building/Roads	1.00
6	Europac	Industrial A-D	1.00
7	Alumac	Industrial A-D	1.00
8	Poly Peck (sa)	Food	1.00
9	Redland (sa)	Building/Roads	1.00
10	Nat Aust Bk	Bank/Discount	1.00
11	THORN EMI (sa)	Electrical	1.00
12	City Elect	Electrical	1.00
13	Scms Op	Electrical	1.00
14	Mitel	Electrical	1.00
15	Crosby James	Building/Roads	1.00
16	Ten Hags	Industrial S-Z	1.00
17	MB GP 7-14 PT	Industrial L-R	1.00
18	Medeva	Industrial L-R	1.00
19	Carver Cons	Industrial A-D	1.00
20	Nepco Corp	Industrial A-D	1.00
21	Stough Estate (sa)	Property	1.00
22	St Land (sa)	Property	1.00
23	Central TV	Leisure	1.00
24	Shell (sa)	Oil/Gas	1.00
25	Uthmaniyah (sa)	Oil/Gas	1.00
26	Wates	Property	1.00
27	Thornitons	Food	1.00
28	Olsson (MJ)	Building/Roads	1.00
29	TSR (sa)	Bank/Discount	1.00
30	BM GP	Industrial A-D	1.00
31	Proudford Alexander	Industrial L-R	1.00
32	Alexandra Wear	Industrial A-D	1.00
33	Trinity Int	Newspaper/Pub	1.00
34	Lucky (sa)	Minor/Aircraft	1.00
35	Br Airways (sa)	Transport	1.00
36	Medleyway	Property	1.00
37	Grampian	Leisure	1.00
38	Milldown (sa)	Food	1.00
39	Ryl Bk Socy (sa)	Bank/Discount	1.00
40	Davy	Industrial A-D	1.00
41	Kacel Elect (sa)	Electrical	1.00
42	Empire Stores	Drum/Petrol	1.00
43	Fish Lovell	Food	1.00
44	Costa	Industrial A-D	1.00

Please take into account any minus signs

Weekly Dividend
Please make a note of your daily totals for the weekly dividend of £4,000 in today's newspaper.

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN

The winner of the Portfolio Platinum prize yesterday was William Harries, of South Croydon. He receives £4,000.

BRITISH FUNDS

1990	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	Div	Yield
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SHORTS (Under Five Years)

1990	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	Div	Yield
100	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

FIVE TO FIFTEEN YEARS

1990	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	Div	Yield
100	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

OVER FIFTEEN YEARS

1990	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	Div	Yield
100	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

UNDATED

1990	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	Div	Yield
100	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

INDEX-LINKED

1990	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	Div	Yield
100	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

BANKS, DISCOUNT HP

1990	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	Div	Yield
100	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

STOCK EXCHANGE PRICES

Good gains

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings began June 25. Dealings end July 6. Contango day July 9. Settlement day July 16.
Forward bargains are permitted on two previous business days.

Prices recorded are at market close. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Where one price is quoted, it is a middle price. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices. (sa) denotes Alpha Stocks.
(VOLUME: PAGE 42).

1990	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	Div	Yield
100	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

BREWERIES

1990	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	Div	Yield
100	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

BUILDING, ROADS

1990	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	Div	Yield
100	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

CHEMICALS, PLASTICS

1990	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	Div	Yield
100	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

DRAPERY, STORES

1990	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	Div	Yield
100	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

ELECTRICALS

1990	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	Div	Yield
100	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

1990	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	Div	Yield
100	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

FINANCE, LAND

1990	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	Div	Yield
100	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

FINANCIAL TRUSTS

1990	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	Div	Yield
100	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

FOODS

1990	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	Div	Yield
100	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

HOTELS, CATERERS

1990	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	Div	Yield
100	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

INDUSTRIALS A-D

1990	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	Div	Yield
100	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

L-R

1990	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	Div	Yield
100	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

S-Z

1990	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	Div	Yield
100	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

1990	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	Div	Yield
100	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

INSURANCE

1990	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	Div	Yield
100	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

LEISURE

1990	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	Div	Yield
100	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

MINING

1990	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	Div	Yield
100	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

MOTORS, AIRCRAFT

1990	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	Div	Yield
100	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

NEWSPAPERS, PUBLISHERS

1990	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	Div	Yield
100	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

OILS, GAS

1990	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	Div	Yield
100	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

OVERSEAS TRADERS

1990	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	Div	Yield
100	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

1990	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	Div	Yield
100	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

PAPER, PRINT, ADVERTISING

1990	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	Div	Yield
100	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

PROPERTY

1990	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	Div	Yield
100	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

SHOES, LEATHER

1990	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	Div	Yield
100	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

TEXTILES

1990	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	Div	Yield
100	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

TOBACCO

1990	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	Div	Yield
100	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

TRANSPORT

1990	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	Div	Yield
100	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

WATER

1990	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	Div	Yield
100	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

Portfolio PLATINUM

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WEEKLY DIVIDEND
£4,000

Claims required for +210 points

Claimants should ring 0254-53272

1990	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	Div	Yield
100	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

OVERSEAS TRADERS

1990	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	Div	Yield
100	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

PAPER, PRINT, ADVERTISING

1990	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	Div	Yield
100	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

PROPERTY

1990	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	Div	Yield
100	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

SHOES, LEATHER

1990

ngels awa

However, the employees in those same firms were also the first to suffer, as many of their new parents reacted to

One is execution-only, where the broker merely processes orders without advising on portfolio selections. The other is discretionary portfolio management, under which the broker trades on the client's behalf without prior consultation. While a few London firms will

Beyond London it is a very different picture. Provincial brokers, enjoying the luxury of lower rents and salary bills, have been able to maintain the more labour-intensive styles which typified brokers everywhere until a decade ago.

The majority of BLW clients are still canny Scottish pensioners who have opted for the advisory service, where they pay an annual fee of £75 and commissions start at £30 or 1.65 per

Bernard Solomons, managing director of Allied Provincial Services, the biggest private-client broker based in Glasgow, said: "Obviously a lot of clients like to have a say in their portfolio, but volatility is a real problem. Markets are

are still plenty of firms around the country willing to offer the chat on the phone that thousands of investors like to have before their money is consigned to the market.

...with team who
...ment into it
...ground, later-
...producers over
...the music, finally
...the situation of
...years

He has tried both the discretionary and non-discretionary approach, but prefers to know

In the market: Eddie Whitehouse invests for the fun

So in 1987, when the market was near its height, Mr

[illegible]

INTEREST RATES ROUNDED

APR 1974		MAY 1974		JUN 1974		JUL 1974		AUG 1974		SEPT 1974		OCT 1974		NOV 1974		DEC 1974																																																																																																																																																																																																							
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<p>FOREIGN EXCHANGE</p> <table><tr><th>Currency</th><th>Rate</th><th>Change</th><th>Rate</th><th>Change</th><th>Rate</th><th>Change</th><th>Rate</th><th>Change</th><th>Rate</th><th>Change</th><th>Rate</th><th>Change</th><th>Rate</th><th>Change</th><th>Rate</th><th>Change</th><th>Rate</th></tr><tr><td>British Pound</td><td>1.75</td><td>0.01</td><td>1.76</td><td>0.01</td><td>1.77</td><td>0.01</td><td>1.78</td><td>0.01</td><td>1.79</td><td>0.01</td><td>1.80</td><td>0.01</td><td>1.81</td><td>0.01</td><td>1.82</td><td>0.01</td><td>1.83</td></tr><tr><td>French Franc</td><td>6.55</td><td>0.02</td><td>6.57</td><td>0.02</td><td>6.59</td><td>0.02</td><td>6.61</td><td>0.02</td><td>6.63</td><td>0.02</td><td>6.65</td><td>0.02</td><td>6.67</td><td>0.02</td><td>6.69</td><td>0.02</td><td>6.71</td></tr><tr><td>German Mark</td><td>3.36</td><td>0.01</td><td>3.37</td><td>0.01</td><td>3.38</td><td>0.01</td><td>3.39</td><td>0.01</td><td>3.40</td><td>0.01</td><td>3.41</td><td>0.01</td><td>3.42</td><td>0.01</td><td>3.43</td><td>0.01</td><td>3.44</td></tr><tr><td>Japanese Yen</td><td>108</td><td>1</td><td>109</td><td>1</td><td>110</td><td>1</td><td>111</td><td>1</td><td>112</td><td>1</td><td>113</td><td>1</td><td>114</td><td>1</td><td>115</td><td>1</td><td>116</td></tr><tr><td>Swiss Franc</td><td>2.00</td><td>0.01</td><td>2.01</td><td>0.01</td><td>2.02</td><td>0.01</td><td>2.03</td><td>0.01</td><td>2.04</td><td>0.01</td><td>2.05</td><td>0.01</td><td>2.06</td><td>0.01</td><td>2.07</td><td>0.01</td><td>2.08</td></tr></table>																		Currency	Rate	Change	Rate	Change	Rate	Change	Rate	Change	Rate	Change	Rate	Change	Rate	Change	Rate	Change	Rate	British Pound	1.75	0.01	1.76	0.01	1.77	0.01	1.78	0.01	1.79	0.01	1.80	0.01	1.81	0.01	1.82	0.01	1.83	French Franc	6.55	0.02	6.57	0.02	6.59	0.02	6.61	0.02	6.63	0.02	6.65	0.02	6.67	0.02	6.69	0.02	6.71	German Mark	3.36	0.01	3.37	0.01	3.38	0.01	3.39	0.01	3.40	0.01	3.41	0.01	3.42	0.01	3.43	0.01	3.44	Japanese Yen	108	1	109	1	110	1	111	1	112	1	113	1	114	1	115	1	116	Swiss Franc	2.00	0.01	2.01	0.01	2.02	0.01	2.03	0.01	2.04	0.01	2.05	0.01	2.06	0.01	2.07	0.01	2.08																																																																																										
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Japanese Yen	10000.00	0.05	2.00%	10000.05	0.05	2.00%	10000.10	0.05	2.00%	10000.15	0.05	2.00%	10000.20	0.05	2.00%	10000.25	0.05																																																																																																																																																																																																						
Swiss Franc	150.00	0.01	4.50%	150.01	0.01	4.50%	150.02	0.01	4.50%	150.03	0.01	4.50%	150.04	0.01	4.50%	150.05	0.01																																																																																																																																																																																																						
<p>UNITED INCOME BONDS</p> <table><tr><th>Bond</th><th>Balance</th><th>Interest</th><th>Rate</th><th>Balance</th><th>Interest</th><th>Rate</th><th>Balance</th><th>Interest</th><th>Rate</th><th>Balance</th><th>Interest</th><th>Rate</th><th>Balance</th><th>Interest</th><th>Rate</th><th>Balance</th><th>Interest</th></tr><tr><td>100%</td><td>100.00</td><td>0.01</td><td>10.00%</td><td>100.01</td><td>0.01</td><td>10.00%</td><td>100.02</td><td>0.01</td><td>10.00%</td><td>100.03</td><td>0.01</td><td>10.00%</td><td>100.04</td><td>0.01</td><td>10.00%</td><td>100.05</td><td>0.01</td></tr><tr><td>90%</td><td>90.00</td><td>0.01</td><td>9.00%</td><td>90.01</td><td>0.01</td><td>9.00%</td><td>90.02</td><td>0.01</td><td>9.00%</td><td>90.03</td><td>0.01</td><td>9.00%</td><td>90.04</td><td>0.01</td><td>9.00%</td><td>90.05</td><td>0.01</td></tr><tr><td>80%</td><td>80.00</td><td>0.01</td><td>8.00%</td><td>80.01</td><td>0.01</td><td>8.00%</td><td>80.02</td><td>0.01</td><td>8.00%</td><td>80.03</td><td>0.01</td><td>8.00%</td><td>80.04</td><td>0.01</td><td>8.00%</td><td>80.05</td><td>0.01</td></tr><tr><td>70%</td><td>70.00</td><td>0.01</td><td>7.00%</td><td>70.01</td><td>0.01</td><td>7.00%</td><td>70.02</td><td>0.01</td><td>7.00%</td><td>70.03</td><td>0.01</td><td>7.00%</td><td>70.04</td><td>0.01</td><td>7.00%</td><td>70.05</td><td>0.01</td></tr><tr><td>60%</td><td>60.00</td><td>0.01</td><td>6.00%</td><td>60.01</td><td>0.01</td><td>6.00%</td><td>60.02</td><td>0.01</td><td>6.00%</td><td>60.03</td><td>0.01</td><td>6.00%</td><td>60.04</td><td>0.01</td><td>6.00%</td><td>60.05</td><td>0.01</td></tr><tr><td>50%</td><td>50.00</td><td>0.01</td><td>5.00%</td><td>50.01</td><td>0.01</td><td>5.00%</td><td>50.02</td><td>0.01</td><td>5.00%</td><td>50.03</td><td>0.01</td><td>5.00%</td><td>50.04</td><td>0.01</td><td>5.00%</td><td>50.05</td><td>0.01</td></tr><tr><td>40%</td><td>40.00</td><td>0.01</td><td>4.00%</td><td>40.01</td><td>0.01</td><td>4.00%</td><td>40.02</td><td>0.01</td><td>4.00%</td><td>40.03</td><td>0.01</td><td>4.00%</td><td>40.04</td><td>0.01</td><td>4.00%</td><td>40.05</td><td>0.01</td></tr><tr><td>30%</td><td>30.00</td><td>0.01</td><td>3.00%</td><td>30.01</td><td>0.01</td><td>3.00%</td><td>30.02</td><td>0.01</td><td>3.00%</td><td>30.03</td><td>0.01</td><td>3.00%</td><td>30.04</td><td>0.01</td><td>3.00%</td><td>30.05</td><td>0.01</td></tr><tr><td>20%</td><td>20.00</td><td>0.01</td><td>2.00%</td><td>20.01</td><td>0.01</td><td>2.00%</td><td>20.02</td><td>0.01</td><td>2.00%</td><td>20.03</td><td>0.01</td><td>2.00%</td><td>20.04</td><td>0.01</td><td>2.00%</td><td>20.05</td><td>0.01</td></tr><tr><td>10%</td><td>10.00</td><td>0.01</td><td>1.00%</td><td>10.01</td><td>0.01</td><td>1.00%</td><td>10.02</td><td>0.01</td><td>1.00%</td><td>10.03</td><td>0.01</td><td>1.00%</td><td>10.04</td><td>0.01</td><td>1.00%</td><td>10.05</td><td>0.01</td></tr></table>																		Bond	Balance	Interest	Rate	Balance	Interest	Rate	Balance	Interest	Rate	Balance	Interest	Rate	Balance	Interest	Rate	Balance	Interest	100%	100.00	0.01	10.00%	100.01	0.01	10.00%	100.02	0.01	10.00%	100.03	0.01	10.00%	100.04	0.01	10.00%	100.05	0.01	90%	90.00	0.01	9.00%	90.01	0.01	9.00%	90.02	0.01	9.00%	90.03	0.01	9.00%	90.04	0.01	9.00%	90.05	0.01	80%	80.00	0.01	8.00%	80.01	0.01	8.00%	80.02	0.01	8.00%	80.03	0.01	8.00%	80.04	0.01	8.00%	80.05	0.01	70%	70.00	0.01	7.00%	70.01	0.01	7.00%	70.02	0.01	7.00%	70.03	0.01	7.00%	70.04	0.01	7.00%	70.05	0.01	60%	60.00	0.01	6.00%	60.01	0.01	6.00%	60.02	0.01	6.00%	60.03	0.01	6.00%	60.04	0.01	6.00%	60.05	0.01	50%	50.00	0.01	5.00%	50.01	0.01	5.00%	50.02	0.01	5.00%	50.03	0.01	5.00%	50.04	0.01	5.00%	50.05	0.01	40%	40.00	0.01	4.00%	40.01	0.01	4.00%	40.02	0.01	4.00%	40.03	0.01	4.00%	40.04	0.01	4.00%	40.05	0.01	30%	30.00	0.01	3.00%	30.01	0.01	3.00%	30.02	0.01	3.00%	30.03	0.01	3.00%	30.04	0.01	3.00%	30.05	0.01	20%	20.00	0.01	2.00%	20.01	0.01	2.00%	20.02	0.01	2.00%	20.03	0.01	2.00%	20.04	0.01	2.00%	20.05	0.01	10%	10.00	0.01	1.00%	10.01	0.01	1.00%	10.02	0.01	1.00%	10.03	0.01	1.00%	10.04	0.01	1.00%	10.05	0.01
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<p>UNITED SAVINGS</p> <table><tr><th>Savings</th><th>Balance</th><th>Interest</th><th>Rate</th><th>Balance</th><th>Interest</th><th>Rate</th><th>Balance</th><th>Interest</th><th>Rate</th><th>Balance</th><th>Interest</th><th>Rate</th><th>Balance</th><th>Interest</th><th>Rate</th><th>Balance</th><th>Interest</th></tr><tr><td>100%</td><td>100.00</td><td>0.01</td><td>10.00%</td><td>100.01</td><td>0.01</td><td>10.00%</td><td>100.02</td><td>0.01</td><td>10.00%</td><td>100.03</td><td>0.01</td><td>10.00%</td><td>100.04</td><td>0.01</td><td>10.00%</td><td>100.05</td><td>0.01</td></tr><tr><td>90%</td><td>90.00</td><td>0.01</td><td>9.00%</td><td>90.01</td><td>0.01</td><td>9.00%</td><td>90.02</td><td>0.01</td><td>9.00%</td><td>90.03</td><td>0.01</td><td>9.00%</td><td>90.04</td><td>0.01</td><td>9.00%</td><td>90.05</td><td>0.01</td></tr><tr><td>80%</td><td>80.00</td><td>0.01</td><td>8.00%</td><td>80.01</td><td>0.01</td><td>8.00%</td><td>80.02</td><td>0.01</td><td>8.00%</td><td>80.03</td><td>0.01</td><td>8.00%</td><td>80.04</td><td>0.01</td><td>8.00%</td><td>80.05</td><td>0.01</td></tr><tr><td>70%</td><td>70.00</td><td>0.01</td><td>7.00%</td><td>70.01</td><td>0.01</td><td>7.00%</td><td>70.02</td><td>0.01</td><td>7.00%</td><td>70.03</td><td>0.01</td><td>7.00%</td><td>70.04</td><td>0.01</td><td>7.00%</td><td>70.05</td><td>0.01</td></tr><tr><td>60%</td><td>60.00</td><td>0.01</td><td>6.00%</td><td>60.01</td><td>0.01</td><td>6.00%</td><td>60.02</td><td>0.01</td><td>6.00%</td><td>60.03</td><td>0.01</td><td>6.00%</td><td>60.04</td><td>0.01</td><td>6.00%</td><td>60.05</td><td>0.01</td></tr><tr><td>50%</td><td>50.00</td><td>0.01</td><td>5.00%</td><td>50.01</td><td>0.01</td><td>5.00%</td><td>50.02</td><td>0.01</td><td>5.00%</td><td>50.03</td><td>0.01</td><td>5.00%</td><td>50.04</td><td>0.01</td><td>5.00%</td><td>50.05</td><td>0.01</td></tr><tr><td>40%</td><td>40.00</td><td>0.01</td><td>4.00%</td><td>40.01</td><td>0.01</td><td>4.00%</td><td>40.02</td><td>0.01</td><td>4.00%</td><td>40.03</td><td>0.01</td><td>4.00%</td><td>40.04</td><td>0.01</td><td>4.00%</td><td>40.05</td><td>0.01</td></tr><tr><td>30%</td><td>30.00</td><td>0.01</td><td>3.00%</td><td>30.01</td><td>0.01</td><td>3.00%</td><td>30.02</td><td>0.01</td><td>3.00%</td><td>30.03</td><td>0.01</td><td>3.00%</td><td>30.04</td><td>0.01</td><td>3.00%</td><td>30.05</td><td>0.01</td></tr><tr><td>20%</td><td>20.00</td><td>0.01</td><td>2.00%</td><td>20.01</td><td>0.01</td><td>2.00%</td><td>20.02</td><td>0.01</td><td>2.00%</td><td>20.03</td><td>0.01</td><td>2.00%</td><td>20.04</td><td>0.01</td><td>2.00%</td><td>20.05</td><td>0.01</td></tr><tr><td>10%</td><td>10.00</td><td>0.01</td><td>1.00%</td><td>10.01</td><td>0.01</td><td>1.00%</td><td>10.02</td><td>0.01</td><td>1.00%</td><td>10.03</td><td>0.01</td><td>1.00%</td><td>10.04</td><td>0.01</td><td>1.00%</td><td>10.05</td><td>0.01</td></tr></table>																		Savings	Balance	Interest	Rate	Balance	Interest	Rate	Balance	Interest	Rate	Balance	Interest	Rate	Balance	Interest	Rate	Balance	Interest	100%	100.00	0.01	10.00%	100.01	0.01	10.00%	100.02	0.01	10.00%	100.03	0.01	10.00%	100.04	0.01	10.00%	100.05	0.01	90%	90.00	0.01	9.00%	90.01	0.01	9.00%	90.02	0.01	9.00%	90.03	0.01	9.00%	90.04	0.01	9.00%	90.05	0.01	80%	80.00	0.01	8.00%	80.01	0.01	8.00%	80.02	0.01	8.00%	80.03	0.01	8.00%	80.04	0.01	8.00%	80.05	0.01	70%	70.00	0.01	7.00%	70.01	0.01	7.00%	70.02	0.01	7.00%	70.03	0.01	7.00%	70.04	0.01	7.00%	70.05	0.01	60%	60.00	0.01	6.00%	60.01	0.01	6.00%	60.02	0.01	6.00%	60.03	0.01	6.00%	60.04	0.01	6.00%	60.05	0.01	50%	50.00	0.01	5.00%	50.01	0.01	5.00%	50.02	0.01	5.00%	50.03	0.01	5.00%	50.04	0.01	5.00%	50.05	0.01	40%	40.00	0.01	4.00%	40.01	0.01	4.00%	40.02	0.01	4.00%	40.03	0.01	4.00%	40.04	0.01	4.00%	40.05	0.01	30%	30.00	0.01	3.00%	30.01	0.01	3.00%	30.02	0.01	3.00%	30.03	0.01	3.00%	30.04	0.01	3.00%	30.05	0.01	20%	20.00	0.01	2.00%	20.01	0.01	2.00%	20.02	0.01	2.00%	20.03	0.01	2.00%	20.04	0.01	2.00%	20.05	0.01	10%	10.00	0.01	1.00%	10.01	0.01	1.00%	10.02	0.01	1.00%	10.03	0.01	1.00%	10.04	0.01	1.00%	10.05	0.01
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WEEKEND MONEY

Unit trust carries safety net

By TOM TICKELL

A NEW unit trust which transforms today's gains into next year's safety net was launched by Abbey Life this week.

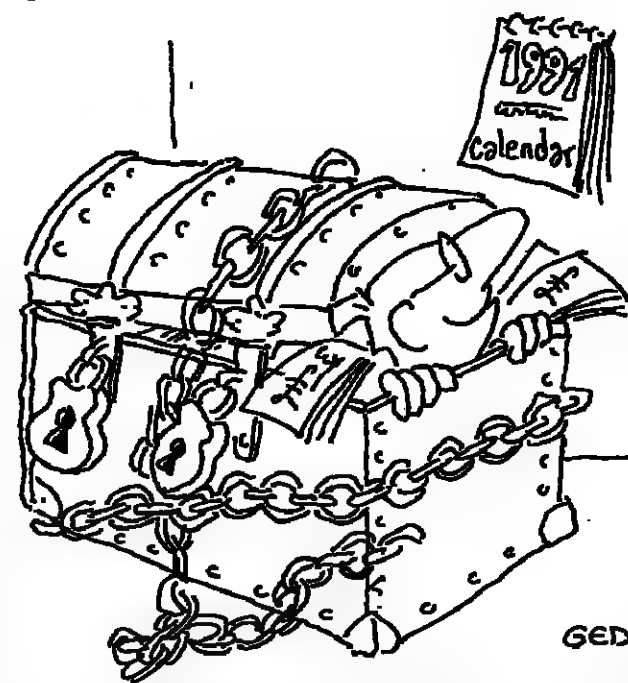
The Global Growth and Security Trust reduces the potential benefits you can expect by an average 30 per cent, but uses a financial ratchet to lock them in.

It works by setting a floor price once the trust has been held for a year. If the fund gains 20 per cent in the first year this will be the minimum return that the investor receives during the next 12 months even if the price subsequently falls.

But the cover is not quite a guarantee. Abbey Life claims that if share prices drop by 16 per cent in any dealing period — effectively a day — the protection will be suspended.

Obtaining protection means paying protection money, which does not come cheap. For a start, the Abbey Life scheme means that on average only 70 per cent is collected of what would have been made without the special protection features, taking both the gain and the income together.

At one extreme, you might collect only 40 per cent of the potential gain and at another lose almost nothing, depending on how sharply share prices had moved a year earlier. Investors are also tied



into the investment for a year for the certainty of returning to square one.

Abbey Life splits the money between active assets, a mix of British, American, Japanese equities and some gilts, and passive investments, such as futures.

The balance at the start will be 55/45 in favour of active assets, but the group insists that it will change the split as investment conditions alter. When markets rise, more money will move over to the active side, but it will flow

back to the safer passive side when prices fall.

That was where the first American mutual funds based on the same idea came unstuck in the crash of 1987. When the market plummeted, they had to sell shares on a falling market to build up their proportion of passive investments.

"The American funds had only invested in the US market," said Paul Laband, who runs Abbey Life's investment strategy. "Our investments are spread round the

world so that if one market falls, we can always sell shares in another to raise the protection level. We also hold gilts and when share prices fall, gilt prices normally rise."

That may offer some cover, but as markets become ever more global, a massive fall in one country will often trigger others elsewhere.

Plenty of other groups, though, have thought along the same lines. Pearl Assurance set the ball rolling with its UK Income Trust, which guaranteed to provide money back, however appalling investment conditions might be, but only if holders died.

Scottish Provident and Legal and General moved in next offering bonds which provided gains in good times and money back in bad. But in Scottish Provident's case the emergency money-back button could only be pushed exactly three years after taking out the plan. Legal and General restricted its guarantee to the fifth anniversary only.

Offshore companies have been more flexible, if only because regulations are less stringent. Mercury launched a "ninety ten" fund based in Luxembourg, where 90 per cent goes into buying certificates of deposit. The investment sparkle comes from the other 10 per cent which will go into high-risk, high-reward ventures like options.

Providence Capitol adds gold to range of funds despite slump in bullion price

By JON ASHWORTH

PROVIDENCE Capitol has shrugged off recent falls in the price of bullion to add a gold trust to its range of funds. The trust, which is initially on offer until July 6, will invest in gold production and gold exploration companies and hopes to find a place in long-term portfolios.

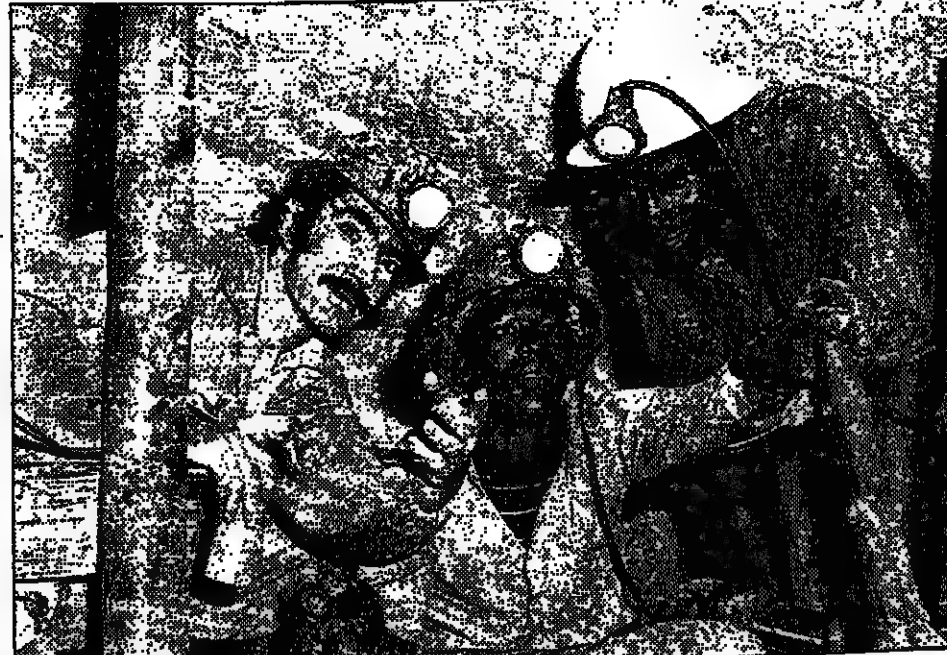
The move comes just weeks after James Capel, the broker, shelved plans for a £300 million gold investment trust which was to invest in gold shares and bullion.

Capel had hoped that the trust would fill the investment gap left after Hanson took over Consolidated Gold Fields.

But uncertainty over the gold price, which fell \$20 on March 26 and has fallen further since then, left investors unwilling to back a fund solely committed to gold.

Providence Capitol is taking the same approach on a much smaller scale. But its timing has surprised analysts, who have seen the gold price slump from more than \$400 to near \$350 and can see little upside.

Julian Baring, former head of James Capel's mining team, said he expected gold to remain locked in a narrow trading range until some fun-



Brighter future: Providence believes gold will offer reasonable long-term growth. There is a strong demand for gold from the jewellery industry but there is no shortage of stock at present. If mines begin to shut down because of the low gold price, demand could outstrip supply and investors would be more inclined to come back into the market.

Alan Parsonson, Providence Capitol's managing director, said the company had decided to press on with the launch despite the slump in the gold price. "We are trying to develop a range of specialist trusts for professional investors, and believe the gold trust can add value as a small part of an investment portfolio. The timing is unfortunate, perhaps, but we believe it will give reasonable long-term growth."

Mr Parsonson said he hoped to attract up to £2 million during the launch period, but was not expecting vast amounts. About 10 per cent of the portfolio will be held in cash, with the remainder split equally into 22.5 per cent stakes in Australia, Canada, America and South Africa.

Providence Capitol is owned by Old Mutual, one of South Africa's largest insurance companies.

Hill Samuel pep aims at capital and income

By OUR MONEY STAFF

HILL Samuel has launched a capital and income fund to add to its range of personal equity plans (peps).

The fund is only open to one-off lump sum investments of £6,000. Half of the portfolio will be invested in Hill Samuel's income and growth trust, while the rest will yield in shares of companies which show potential for capital growth.

Bob Pennells, investment director of Hill Samuel unit trust managers, said the company had performed consistently well in the longer term, and would be promoting this message to investors. The pep has an initial charge of 6 per cent and an annual management charge of 1.5 per cent.

Regular savers who can set aside at least £50 a month have a choice of the Hill Samuel unit trust pep, which invests in a choice of three unit trusts, or the Hill Samuel British Industry pep, which invests in blue chip shares and the Hill Samuel British Trust.

Taking the concept a step further, Eagle Star next week launches an investment bond which combines a pep with a temporary annuity.

A one-off lump sum, which varies according to age and choice, is used to buy an annuity which will run for at least five years. The minimum for a plan tailored towards income over five years is £4,000, while for growth the minimum is £2,500. Payments from the annuity are then re-invested in a pep which is linked to one of four unit trusts.

Chris Baggeley, the marketing manager, said the pep bond helped lock investors into high interest rates while gaining the tax advantages of peps.

But, in a word of caution to investors, the company gives warning that tax laws are always subject to change.

There is a 6 per cent initial charge and a 1 per cent annual management charge. For Eagle Star's environmental opportunities trust, the annual charge is 1.25 per cent.

BRIEFINGS

■ Northern Rock building society has teamed up with Norwich Union to launch a new travel insurance package. Available in branches, the package covers personal accident, medical expenses, baggage, cash, cancellation, delays and personal liability. Premiums start from £6, and cover can be bought for the UK, Europe or worldwide.

■ A new version of a popular guide designed to help savers look after their money has been published by Allied Dunbar. The guide, *Managing your Finances*, has been updated to include sections on independent taxation, the abolition of composite rate tax, and the arrival of tax-exempt special savings accounts (Tessas). It is available in bookshops and costs £6.99.

■ A fixed-rate mortgage at 13.5 per cent over two years has been launched by Newcastle building society. Interested borrowers will have to link their loan to a home plan mortgage protection or endowment policy and contents insurance. After two years the mortgage reverts to the prevailing rate or any other special scheme available.

■ Eagle Star has introduced free motor insurance cover for customers who take their cars to the Continent. Motorstar policyholders will no longer have to pay an extra fee to upgrade their insurance cover. This could save them £20, and provide cover for up to three months of the year. Motorstar rates are to rise by about 4 per cent next week, but are being downgraded by the same amount in 86 postcode districts with a lower rate of claims.

■ Credit Suisse Buckmaster & Moore has launched an investment service for clients with offshore portfolios who prefer to have them managed from London. Investments are held and administered in Guernsey and managed by fund managers in the City. A 0.5 per cent annual management fee is charged on portfolios up to £2 million. Safe custody is also available.

■ First direct has reduced the annual rate of interest on its personal loans from 22.4 per cent to 18.4 per cent. The rate is available on loans taken out between July 1 and August 31.

Finding good returns on endowment policies

By JON ASHWORTH

A THIRD of all new endowment policies are cashed in within the first three years of their term, even though the high cost of charges and commission leaves policyholders with little to show for their money.

Nearly three quarters of new endowments are cashed in before they are due to mature, despite the loss of benefits. Worst affected are home buyers, who are often encouraged to take out an endowment mortgage by financial advisers, only to find they have to switch to a new plan when they move house.

Insurance companies will quote a surrender value on such policies, but this may be worth little in the early years. Christopher Dobie, of Beale Dobie, a Chelmsford company which specialises in buying and selling "with-profit" endowments, said it is often possible to make up to 50 per

cent more by selling policies to other investors. Beale Dobie has teamed up with Solicitors Financial Services, a group of Scottish solicitors, to offer clients the prospect of higher returns. Mr Dobie said as much as £250 million of endowments surrendered each year could have been sold at a higher price.

He added: "We buy policies if we can put a value on them in excess of the surrender value. In some cases, surrender values are 30 or 40 per cent below our estimates. In others, we can offer 49 per cent over the surrender value quoted by the life office."

Mr Dobie said the higher returns were paid to clients after a 13 per cent charge had been deducted. HE Foster Cranfield, the endowment auction specialist, typically charge 12.5 per cent in commission on the sale of policies.

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(AS APPROVED BY THE FINANCIALLY EAGLE-EYED.)

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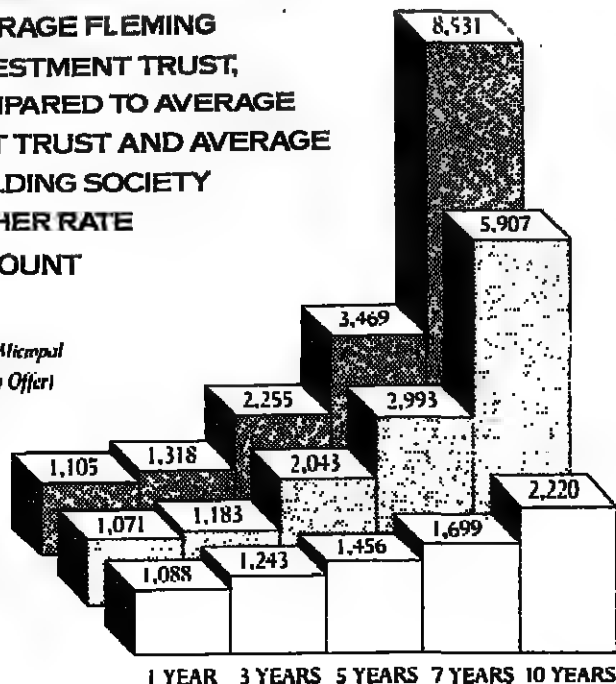
Scrutinise the financial record, which shows that over the past ten years the average Fleming Investment Trust has outperformed such investments as unit trusts and building society higher rate accounts by a wide margin.

But remember that past performance is not necessarily a guide to the future, that prices can fall as well as rise, and that you may not get back the full amount invested.

PERFORMANCE TO PORE OVER

AVERAGE FLEMING INVESTMENT TRUST, COMPARED TO AVERAGE UNIT TRUST AND AVERAGE BUILDING SOCIETY HIGHER RATE ACCOUNT

Source: Mitempal (Offer to Offer)



■ Fleming Investment Trusts ■ Unit Trusts ■ Building Societies

The figures show how an investment of £1,000 in the average Fleming Investment Trust (with net income re-invested) would have performed in comparison with the same amount in the average unit trust and the average building society higher rate account over the given periods to 2nd April 1990.

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FLEMINGS INVESTMENT TRUSTS

Insurers to state expenses on policies

By SARA MCCONNELL

LIFE insurance companies have agreed to keep the amount of policyholders' contributions used to pay for administrative costs and commissions to the public.

But from tomorrow they will be compelled to tell policyholders how much their investment will be reduced by expenses and commissions.

People buying a life assurance or pension policy from an independent financial adviser will be sent a product review which will detail the particular policy's commission rate, the insurance company's 14 days after they get to buy a policy.

At the same time, they should receive a breakdown of the policy's costs, and a notice to explain the policy's terms and conditions. If they decide not to proceed, the insurers must refund the policy.

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WEEKEND MONEY

Insurers to state expenses on policies

By SARA MCCONNELL

LIFE insurance companies have always preferred to keep secret the amount of policyholders' contributions used to pay for administrative costs and commissions to salesmen. But from tomorrow they will be compelled to tell policyholders how much their investment will be reduced by expenses and commissions.

People buying a life insurance or pension policy from an independent financial adviser will be sent a product particulars notice direct from their insurance company 14 days after they opt to buy a policy.

At the same time they should receive a cancellation notice to fill in and send back if they decide not to go ahead. Investors should look for two figures in the product particulars notice — the amount by which the yield from their investment will be reduced by life office charges and the amount of their annual premium which goes in commissions to salesmen.

Unfortunately both these figures will be percentages rather than the cash sums, for which consumer groups have been pressing.

"We are calling for greater disclosure of commissions which we think should be disclosed in cash terms at point of sale," said Jane Vass, head of the money group at the Consumers Association.

Insurance companies argue that in many cases independent financial advisers do not know exactly how much commission they will earn from selling a policy until the insurance company works it out, as they can choose either to have the bulk of commission paid upfront or spread evenly over the term of the policy.

Companies do not know exactly what an investment will yield so the product particulars notice will use standard figures of a 7 per cent yield for life insurance policies and 8.5 per cent for pension policies.

Companies then work out their own charges and expenses as a percentage and subtract them from the standard figure.

Investors are supposed to be able to compare the expenses of different companies by seeing which have the most effect on yields, but insurers admit it is unlikely.

All investors will be told how much of their investment goes in expenses, but those who buy from a tied agent selling the products of only one company will not be told how much commission he or she earns.

The Securities and Investments Board (SIB) argues that tied agents work for the life company not the investor so do not need to disclose commission.

SIB issues simplified set of rules

FINANCIAL regulators may find it easier to spot whether a firm is in trouble, thanks to the arrival of a streamlined set of rules this week.

The Securities and Investments Board, which has the final say on financial regulation, is gradually rewriting its rulebooks to make them easier to understand.

It published a set of high level principles in March and has now followed up these with a series of five core rules to set the tone of regulation. To round it off, more detailed controls may be brought in for individual cases.

The core rules cover five areas necessary to judge whether a firm is solvent or not. They include financial resources, records and reporting, internal controls and systems, ad hoc reporting and auditors. Taken together, these should help keep firms in check and protect the interests of investors.

The rules will come into force on August 1. Regulators which fall under SIB's wing, such as the financial intermediaries, managers and brokers regulatory association (Fimbra) and the life assurance and unit trust regulatory organisation (Lautro) must make sure their own rules are of an equivalent standard.

Choosing your tactics when a rights issue arises

By MALCOLM CRAIG

TO THE unsophisticated investor, the term "rights issue" may convey a warm feeling that they are getting something extra from the company in which they hold shares. In fact, the reverse may well be true.

During the current spate of rights issues British companies have raised around £1 billion so far this year. Rights issues are usually made either to repair company finances or to provide the funds for expansion. The latest batch have fallen into the latter category.

A similar pattern was seen at this time last year. The reasons are not hard to find.

During both periods, the stock market has risen strongly. The

continuing high level of interest rates has encouraged companies to reduce bank borrowings by replacing part of them with new equity via rights issues.

So unpalatable can servicing bank borrowings be to highly-gear companies, especially those in the property sector, that rights issues are often involuntary. For example, the Reliant Group, maker of the three-wheeled Robin recently announced a pre-tax loss of £4.2 million and a deeply discounted rights issue intended to raise £5.5 million after expenses. Carl Turpin, the chief executive, said that gearing (the ratio of borrowing to shareholders' funds) would drop from over 200 per cent

to 180 per cent after the issue.

Rights issues are also used to finance acquisitions if a company prefers not to part with cash. For example, BTP, the specialised chemicals and industrial group, is buying a West German adhesives business for £15.5 million and is funding the purchase by a rights issue. BTP has just announced a 51 per cent rise in pre-tax profits from £11.4 million to £17.25 million.

Faced with a demand for more cash from a company making a takeover bid, or underpinning an investment programme, or seeking to reduce bank borrowing, shareholders may wonder what to do about their "rights". The first thing to realise is that the cosmetic ring

of the word "rights" does not mean something for nothing. A rights issue can, and probably will, dilute their returns from the company because the increase in net profit on the new capital raised is normally less than the increase in the shareholders' capital as a result of the new shares. Earnings per share, that critical yardstick of performance, will probably fall, along with the share price.

The rights have a value only if the market believes that the new capital being raised will earn a rate of return that is the same as, or greater than, the share capital before the rights issue. Such issues offer shareholders preferential terms because the new shares

are nearly always issued to existing shareholders below the market price at the time of the issue. This apparent gain is speedily eliminated when the shares go "ex rights".

Shareholders have four choices open to them. They can take up the rights by subscribing the new money requested, or sell their rights "nil paid" in the market. This way, existing shareholdings are retained, and shareholders pay out nothing on the rights issue but can sell their rights on the market for what they will fetch.

Selling rights "nil paid" depends on market conditions, and, in a despondent market, any bonus effect of a rights issue can vanish. However, if the market is short of

stock, a rights issue can give big institutional buyers a chance to translate surplus cash into equity and a shareholder can collect a bonus by the "nil paid" route.

Another option is to sell enough rights in the market to pay for the call on the remaining entitlement, but this is worth pursuing only if you have a large shareholding.

Another choice is for shareholders to do nothing. Either the other shareholders then buy the entitlement by an excess application form, or the shares are sold in the market, and the premiums — if any — are distributed to shareholders. However, smaller companies and overseas companies can sell in the market and pocket the proceeds.



Calling for cash: Chris Johnson, left, Reliant Group's deputy chairman, with Carl Turpin, chief executive

Slump in high street sales offers scope for discounts

By BARBARA ELLIS

ONE way of saving money is to ask for a discount. The combination of generous margins and slow business on the high street means that shopkeepers may be more willing than usual to give reductions.

Some idea of the scope for putting pressure on shopkeepers hit by the sales slump can be gleaned from looking at various profit margins on various categories of goods. As a percentage of the ex-value added tax sales price, the margin on fashion wear averages 40 per cent. This means that a retailer buying a garment for £60 would sell it for £115 including VAT.

On footwear, the margin is about 45 to 50 per cent, and on furniture the low 30 per cent. The mark-up on electrical goods is between 20 per cent and 25 per cent, against 12 per cent on basic groceries.

The highest profits are made on fashion accessories, such as handbags or belts, which can be on sale at several times their cost price.

On do-it-yourself items, the margin can range from 30 per cent to 60 per cent, according to retail analyst Simon Raggett of Williams de Broe. He notes that DIY retailers make sure their price "known value" items competitively, because customers can make easy comparisons.

"On a duster or a spray, they whack the margin up to 60 per cent," he says. "People don't really know any strong

brand so it's easy to get away with it."

Although a recent High Court ruling cleared the way for "dual pricing", in which credit card customers can be charged more than cash customers for the same item, Mr Raggett says he feels retailers will resist this.

"I suppose you can either have a set discount or special promotion. Otherwise it has got to be at someone's discretion and that could be a nightmare from the point of view of pricing and accounting," he says.

He adds that retailers might also be unwilling to give managers discretion to make discounts at a time when they were keen to get their gross margins up.

There are a few rules that discount-hunters should observe:

- Ask the manager, not just an assistant.
- Be discreet — a loud request will alert other shoppers to what is going on and provoke copy-cat discount seeking.
- Choose slow-selling items, if possible — but not those that have already been reduced.
- Dare to ask for discounts at the big chains, particularly those selling electrical goods. Managers have sales targets to meet and may be willing to spare some of their profit for the sake of a sale.
- Go in armed with comparative prices from neighbouring stores.

● Be prepared to walk away without buying anything if the discount is refused.

"Asking for a discount is a foreign policy, not an English policy," says Jan Mustafa, owner of the three-shop M&M Shoes chain. He says that between 30 per cent and 35 per cent of customers at his shops ask for and get a discount of about 10 per cent.

Managers have discretion to make reductions on request for regular customers or people spending more than the average of £30 to £40 on the shop's Italian and Spanish shoes.

"If the customer wants a discount and wants to pay by credit card, the answer is usually no," says Mr Mustafa, explaining that someone spending a lot of money on a credit card might be allowed a 5 per cent discount, instead of 10 per cent, because of the percentage the shop had to pay the card company.

However, he says that discounts will not be allowed on shoes the shop had already reduced.

Mr Mustafa points out that shops in the West End of London had extremely high overheads and prices to match. He says that shoppers could find exactly the same quality and service — and a better chance of a discount — in the suburbs. "But they have to ask," he says, "and they have to be regular customers."



Discount at manager's discretion: Abdon Laymy, an assistant at M&M Shoes

Post-flotation costs weigh on Gas

By JON ASHWORTH

BRITISH Gas took the cost of popular capitalism square on the chin this week when it published its report and accounts for 1990.

The company paid £1 million to print the 2.5 million report documents, using the process enough paper to stretch from London to Nairobi. About 87 miles of stitching wire and enough ink to balance the weight of two Asian elephants were also used.

Delivering the reports to homes

throughout Britain required all the trappings of a military-style operation. A special 10-carriage train delivered 9,300 sacks of letter to Paddington station to be distributed to customers in inner and outer London.

On the motorways, 46 articulated trucks travelled 15,000 miles, the equivalent of travelling from London to Peking three times, and dropped off 49,500 sacks of mail along the way.

With greener consumers in mind, all the paper came from trees which are

replaced as they are felled. The proxy card contained in the pack was also printed on recycled paper.

Gilbert Hogg, the company secretary at British Gas, said the aim had been to produce a report which would be useful to both private and institutional investors.

To round it off, new shareholders are given a welcome pack telling them about share ownership, and there is an information office to help with any queries.

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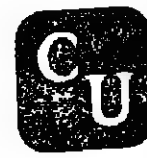
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Bond loans 'putting homes at risk'

By LINDSAY COOK, MONEY EDITOR

HOMEOWNERS are putting their properties at risk by taking out mortgages linked to investment bonds, Age Concern, the charity, gave warning this week.

In its guide *Using Your Home as Capital*, Age Concern emphasises that there can be no guarantee that such bonds will provide a large enough return to pay off the interest and provide extra income.

The schemes, which have been widely marketed for two years, were originally offered to pensioners wanting to earn income from their home. In the very flat housing market some brokers have been offering them as a means of reducing their mortgage payments.

The homeowner takes out a mortgage and the proceeds are put into an investment bond. The idea is that the bond will appreciate, providing enough to pay off the interest and give the homeowner extra income.

At current high interest rates of about 15.5 per cent the bond needs to appreciate by 19 to 20 per cent each year, after tax, to give a reasonable extra monthly income, says Age Concern.

"However, over the past 15 to 20 years the average growth of bonds has been 11 to 12 per

cent, so there would be a strong possibility that the bond might not even grow enough to pay the interest let alone give you extra income.

"If the bond fails to appreciate enough to pay the interest and provide extra income, one way of making up the shortfall is by taking money from the bond itself, which would therefore fall in value. Obviously this would restrict the bond's future growth; and if it were to happen year after year, the bond, and consequently your capital, could disappear altogether.

"So although you may be promised a fixed amount of extra income each month, what you may not realise or be told is that this sum, along with the larger amount needed to pay the loan interest, can only be guaranteed as long as there is enough money in the bond to pay it."

Some bonds try to overcome the problem by deferring payment of part of the interest and adding it to the loan. At current interest rates a debt doubles every 4.5 years if the interest is deferred.

The author of the guide, Cecil Hinton, a broker who specialises in equity release schemes, says that people who take up such plans in their fifties or sixties could find the



bond disappearing altogether, leaving them with a big loan to repay.

Guardian Royal Exchange has stopped appointed representatives from using its investment bond as part of equity release packages. A spokesman said that the current financial climate with higher interest rates and a

lower stockmarket made such products riskier.

"There was a possibility for misunderstanding over what is a remortgaging of the family home. On the whole there seem to have been a few problems," he added.

Deferred interest loans, which do not qualify for tax relief, are also being offered by

a number of building societies. Homeowners take out a loan with which they usually buy an annuity to provide income, and do not have to pay any interest on the loan. This is added to the original loan and is paid off when the homeowner dies.

The younger you are when you take out such a loan the

greater the risk, says the guide. "The size of the debt will increase enormously over a period of 20 or 30 years, if interest rates remain around their present level."

With interest rates of 15 per cent a deferred interest loan of £20,000 would become £327,300 after 20 years. It advises borrowers to be extremely cautious when taking out such loans.

"It would seem highly risky for someone aged between 70 and 75 to borrow more than 20 per cent of a property's value, as the danger of the loan debt overtaking the property value is considerable; even below this level sizeable risks still persist."

A spokesman for the Building Societies Association said that it had not sent guidelines to societies on such schemes but it was generally recognised that the amount of equity released should be as low as possible.

"These schemes are good if people understand the risks, go to responsible lenders and only borrow a small percentage of the value of the house."

He added: "As far as I know nobody has lost their home through one of these plans."

The guide, priced £2.95, is available from Age Concern England, Dept UHC, Age Concern England, 1268 London Road, London SW16 4EJ.

Unit trust rules fail to stamp out abuses over pricing

By RUPERT BRUCE

CONFUSION still exists over the pricing of unit trusts, two years after new rules were introduced.

And these regulations have failed to completely stamp out the abuses they were introduced to combat.

Much of the confusion has arisen because two methods of pricing are used. Unit trust managers either price their trusts on what is called a historic basis or on a forward basis.

If managers choose an historic basis, an investor can generally deal at a known price, set when the fund was last valued at some time in the previous 24 hours.

The only times the investor will not know what price he is dealing at are when the underlying stockmarket moves by more than 2 per cent, or in the two hours or so during which the managers work out the fund's price each day.

If a fund is valued on a forward basis, the investor will not be told at what price he has dealt until the next time the fund is valued, which will be at a specific time in the next 24 hours.

While most investors prefer historic pricing because they know what price they are buying units for, historic pricing is actually the fairer of the two methods.

Before July 1, 1988, all unit trusts dealt on a historic basis. And there was no need to change the price if a stockmarket fluctuated dramatically in between valuations, even though the price charged for units would be out of date and inaccurate.

This allowed many sophisticated investors and brokers to buy units at the previous day's price after the stockmarket had risen sharply. Those who lost out were the fund's existing unitholders.

Now almost two thirds of the UK's 180 or so unit trust managers use forward pricing. It involves them in less financial risk and they believe it is less likely to confuse investors than historic pricing.

But the investment referees and the unit trust ombudsman have both received complaints against unit trust managers arising from misunderstandings over forward pricing.

One investor called a unit trust manager in the morning to be told by the in-house dealer that although he could get no price for his units now,

he would be able to get a firm price in the afternoon. The investor rang back in the afternoon expecting to deal at a known price. As the manager used forward pricing, he could not know, but he dealt nevertheless.

What the dealer had meant was that if the investor bought units in the morning, he would be told at what price in the afternoon, after the trust's daily lunchtime valuation.

Instead, the client had to wait until the next day for his price.

In the meantime, the underlying stockmarket moved up and the investor claimed he had been misled by the dealer.

The unit trust manager gave him a goodwill payment of about £700 in compensation. While the rules have largely stamped out abuse there is still what managers call "a window of opportunity" for historically priced funds.

This window exists when a stockmarket moves dramatically, but by less than the 2 per cent triggering revaluation of historic funds.

If this happens in a morning, for example, a shrewd investor will still be able to buy at yesterday's price. One unit trust manager said: "If a window is open we will offer business to brokers. It is something that all groups are doing."

Prudential Holborn has a similar rule. It prices units on a historic basis, but every two hours, that is five times each day.

So the client always has a relatively up to date price and there is less room for the shrewder investors to take advantage of larger fluctuations.

The company says there have been two occasions when most other unit trust pricing on a historic basis have been forced to switch to forward pricing as the UK stockmarket has plunged or rocketed.

One was when the market dived in the Autumn of 1988, and another was when it jumped in response to Sir James Goldsmith's bid for British American Tobacco last summer.

Managers seem to have forgotten their vigorous opposition to these rules back in 1988.

Mary Blair of Fidelity, who was a staunch opponent, said: "We have had no problems."

Banks will sell SAYE shares in the autumn

By JON ASHWORTH

SAVE as you earn share option schemes will be sold by banks for the first time this autumn as a result of changes confirmed this week by the Treasury.

Richard Ryder, the economic secretary to the Treasury, said this week that approved banks would be able to offer SAYE contracts later this year, as originally announced in this year's Budget.

He also announced that bonuses on the schemes were due to be improved, making them yet more attractive for employees.

Linked with share option schemes, the SAYE contracts allow employees to save up to £150 a month to buy shares in their company.

The bonus paid on completed contracts is to be increased from 12 times to 15 times the monthly contribution, raising the maximum from £1,800 to £2,250 for proceeds taken after five years.

For proceeds taken after seven years, the bonus rises from 24 to 30 times the monthly contribution. This takes the maximum from £3,600 to £4,500.

For completed contracts, the guaranteed bonus will be equivalent to 8.86 per cent a year free of tax over five years.

On contracts held for a further two years, the guaranteed bonus will be the equivalent of 9.15 per cent tax free.

Until now, only National Savings and building societies have been able to sell the

schemes. National Savings already manages schemes worth £211 million for over 70 companies and more than 250,000 people.

The Yorkshire building society, which claims to offer a fifth of all SAYE share option schemes operated by British companies, said improvements to bonus rates were long overdue.

Gordon Smillie, sales operations executive at the Yorkshire, said the increase would stimulate demand for the schemes and help them to compete with personal equity plans (Peps) and the tax-exempt special savings schemes (Tessas).

Mr Smillie said: "The new measures will be a great boost to this market. There has been a feeling that the rates of bonuses have been lagging behind those of other saving schemes."

Of the 905 SAYE share option schemes already available, 163 are run by the Yorkshire.

This week, many of the major banks said they were interested in launching the schemes, but were still looking at the fine details.

National Westminster bank said it was researching the market, while Lloyds bank said it was keen on the schemes but had yet to make any decisions.

Permission to sell the schemes in high street bank branches is due in early August and they may be available by the beginning of September.

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Serving

Ordinary items are being sold as investments despite attempts to prevent the practice, reports Barbara Ellis

PLATES decorated with anything from Royal Warrant to a house in the Cotswolds are a source of income for a small number of dealers who specialise in selling such items to investors.

Despite long-standing efforts by the Advertising Standards Authority, the "collectible plates" are often presented as valuable investments, with values of prices as high as £100,000.

The authority has warned that such items are not investments and that investors should be aware of the risks.

One dealer, who has sold plates for over 20 years, said: "I don't know if it's a good idea to sell plates as investments, but I do know it's a good idea to sell them as collectibles."

Mr O'Neill said that while he did not sell plates as investments, he did sell them as collectibles, and that he was aware of the risks involved.

At the same time, he said that he was aware of the fact that some investors had been misled by dealers who had presented plates as investments.

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WEEKEND MONEY

Serving up problems on a plate

Ordinary items
are being sold
as investments
despite attempts
to prevent the
practice, reports
Barbara Ellis

PLATES decorated with anything from Russian folk heroes to British wildlife are a source of disappointment to hundreds of buyers who succumb to aggressive marketing tactics every year.

Despite long-running efforts by the Advertising Standards Authority, the "collectable" plates are often presented as valuable investments, with tables of prices showing gains of more than 1,000 per cent.

The authority has also failed to stop what it considers as misleading definitions of limited editions.

Twice a day on average, Tim Odell, the ceramics specialist at Christie's, the auctioneers, in South Kensington, has to tell owners of collectable plates that they would be lucky to get £2 each for pieces that may have cost them £100.

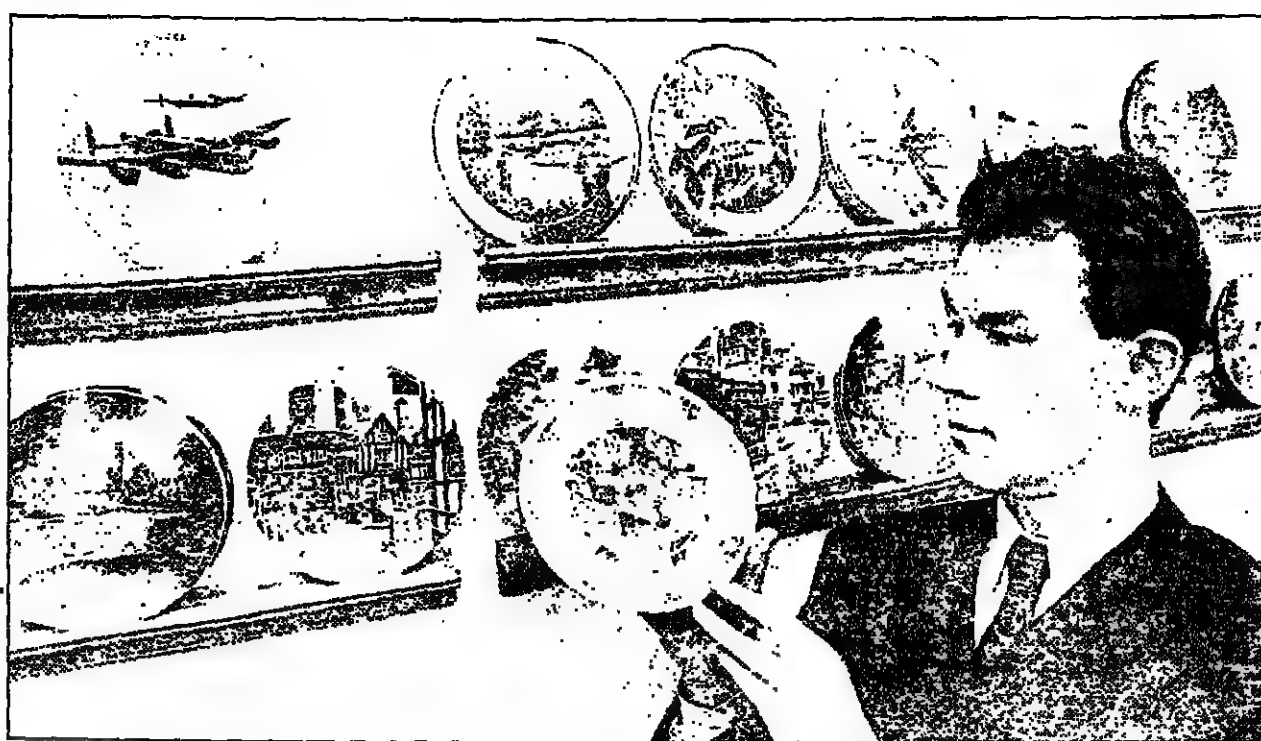
Mr Odell said: "It is quite sad. We get these poor people telling us they invested £100 and they are just seeing what their investment has increased to."

As such plates never go through auction rooms, there are no verifiable price records after the initial issue, he added.

"I don't know where they (the advertisers) get their figures," said Mr Odell.

The plates do not qualify as examples of contemporary design in pottery and are therefore unlikely to become antiques, even after 100 years.

Mr Odell objects to the



Dealing in items which "beautify the home": Nigel Jeffers, general manager of the Bradford Exchange

description of plates as "limited editions" when the only limitation specified is a set number of "firing days". Current technology allows many thousands of plates to be fired in one day.

This point was among several addressed by the authority three years ago in its response to 40 complaints from customers of the Bradford Exchange, a Wembley-based unit of a Chicago company specialising in collectable plates.

At the time, the authority said: "Complaints indicated that customers were misled about the ease of re-sale of plates and the likely investment success in this market. The advertisers were asked to moderate their claims on these topics to avoid giving an exaggerated impression."

The authority also expressed concern that the Bradford Exchange was asking readers of its direct mail literature to assess investment

value on the basis of firing days rather than the actual number of plates produced. However, an undertaking was accepted that the company would mail a detailed explanation of firing days to all purchasers of the plates.

"This was considered acceptable in view of their 365-day refund guarantee," the authority said.

Moderation seems to have featured little recently in direct mail and magazine advertising claims about the investment value of Bradford Exchange plates. Firing days are mentioned without qualification in the company's direct mail literature. The ASA says it is still in contact with the Bradford Exchange and others on this subject.

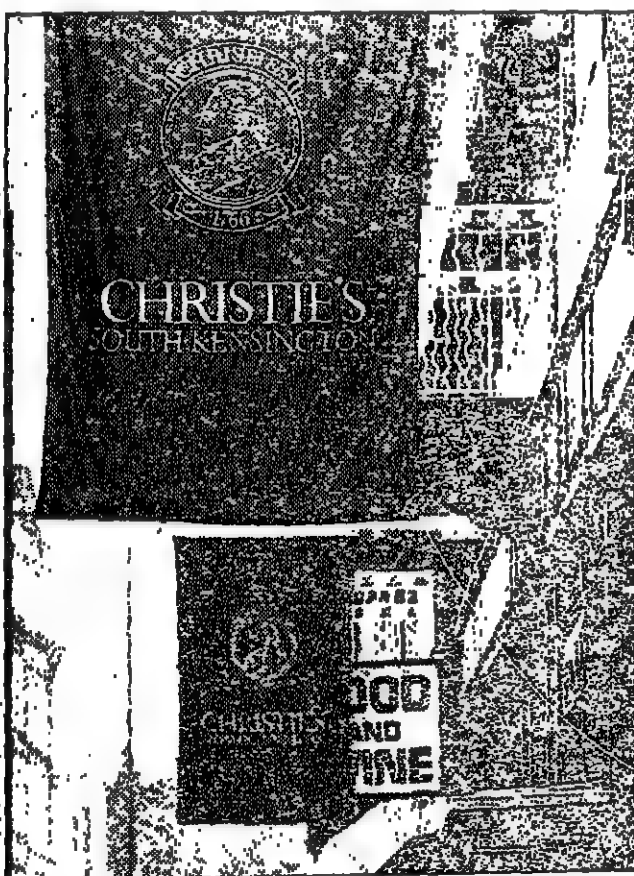
A Bradford Exchange advertisement for a "Russian & Ludmila" plate reproduces what appears to be a newspaper clipping carrying a "market analysis report by the Bradford Exchange." This report issues prices and last British sale prices of three previously-issued plates showing gains ranging from 677 per cent to 1,378 per cent.

"Historic market firsts are proven market winners," says the report. "Russian & Ludmila is the first collector's plate from Russia. It seems exceptionally well positioned for rapid price appreciation... enormous demand for first issues - limited supply could force significant price appreciation in a very short time."

A footnote gives a warning that "neither past experience nor the current situation are necessarily guides to the future".

At the Bradford Exchange, Nigel Jeffers, the general manager, acknowledged "some correspondence" with the ASA, but insisted that the company believed it was complying with the code of advertising practice.

Despite the marked investment emphasis in his company's direct mail literature and prominent references to increasing value in advertisements, Mr Jeffers said that the company was promoting investment less than it had done so in the past.



Flying a warning flag: Christie's, the auctioneer

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WEEKEND MONEY

LETTERS

Banking on a simple solution to overpaying on direct debit

From Mr John J.C. Freeman
Sir, There is a simple solution for Graham Claringbold and overpaying British Gas by direct debit (Letters, June 23). I found communicating with the local electricity board as fruitless when I was in a similar position.

I therefore instructed my bank, a single phone call being necessary, to stop the payments. Problem solved.

After two months the

electricity board asked why I had stopped paying.

I explained that they still had plenty of my money and the subsequent payment requests were more reasonable.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN J.C. FREEMAN,
Stable Court,
20A Leigh Way,
Weaverham,
Northwich,
Cheshire.

Measuring relief in junk mail replies

From Mr Geoff Lewis
Sir, Mrs Colman writes (Letters, June 23) about her positive reaction to the flood of junk mail.

Despite my name being listed by the Mailing Preference Service I have received in the first six months of this year no less than 26 unsolicited letters begging for funds for various charities, all of them worthy causes. Mrs Col-

man is fortunate in being able to afford to send cheques painlessly to all such charities.

Does this tactic relieve her of all future importunities by the same charities?

Yours sincerely,
GEOFF LEWIS,
Jesmond Dene,
Looseleigh Cross,
Plymouth.

Tragedy and hypocrisy over Dunsdale

From Mr David Kauders
Sir, The Dunsdale Securities affair reveals both hypocrisy and tragedy.

The hypocrisy is to ignore the very real losses many investors who bought at the top of the stock market boom are already suffering. These losses are compounded in some of the popular large unit trusts and insurance funds, as we have conclusively demonstrated in a recent research paper.

The tragedy is that many who have not understood what went wrong will now desert gifts when they should be direct gift investors. The point is to have your own name on a certificate, and hold it to maturity.

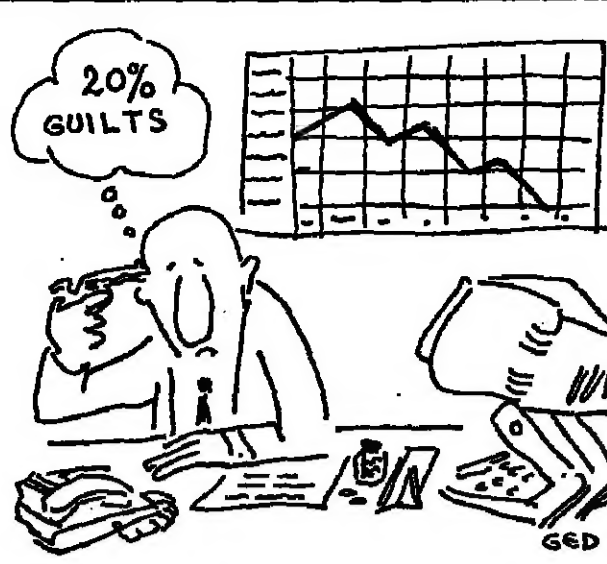
Surely the lesson is to avoid discretionary services no matter who provides them?

Yours faithfully,
DAVID KAUDERS,
Independent Financial

Planning and Investment Consultants,
County Chambers,
Bath Place, Taunton,
Somerset.



"... should you like to borrow more..."



Paying the price of taking a risk

From M.A. Kidd
Sir, The Financial Intermediaries Managers and Brokers Regulatory Association has come in for a lot of criticism over the Dunsdale affair, but no regulators system is going to be really effective so long as people are prepared to hand over substantial sums of money in the hope of exorbitant returns such as the reported "20 per cent from gifts".

It is difficult to believe that those who put up £20,000 or more were so naive as to be unaware that the higher the rate of interest is above the market rate the greater the risk or gamble.

It was the same desire for enhanced interest rates and/or tax relief that caused others to place money with Barlow Clowes, and regrettably many of those people forgot the axioms of not putting all your eggs in one basket, and of only gambling with money one can afford to lose.

Those who lost money with the above two companies gambled on getting a better return on their money than the rest of the community, and they must look to the receivers of those companies to distribute what funds they can recover. There is no reason why the rest of the community should bail them out.

Yours faithfully,
M.A. KIDD,
37 Hillside Road,
Ashted, Surrey.

Investors still at mercy of rogues

From Mr Michael Massey
Sir, Recent correspondence regarding the Financial Intermediaries Managers and Brokers Regulatory Association prompts me to raise a point regarding one of the many good intentions with which that particular road to hell appears to be paved. What happened to commission disclosure?

As a former Fimbra-registered individual, but now a tied agent, I encounter surprise when I offer to clients the information that as much as 25 per cent or as little as 4 per cent can disappear from their year's pension contribution, depending mainly on the frequency of premium payment chosen. Or perhaps everyone knows that?

Whose interests are the insurance industry and its self-regulatory organisations actually trying to serve? I see no evidence that anything has improved for the investor. He is still just as much at the mercy of the rogue and the slick salesman.

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL MASSEY,
Michael Massey Consultancy Services,
6 Bardale Drive,
Wareham,
Dorset.

Break away from a taxing trend

From C.B. Russell
Sir, Like Morris Cooke (Letters, June 15) I would deplore a return to the days when savings depreciated in value as a result of inflation and taxation.

It is a matter for legitimate debate as to governments of which party were most responsible for the economic circumstances giving rise to inflation.

The question of taxation and, in particular, excess imposts upon investment or savings income, are much more a matter of record.

Investment income surcharge was not, as suggested, introduced by Roy Jenkins, but rather by a Conservative government in 1971.

In fact, investment income surcharge was simply continuing, but increasing, the long-standing discrimination in favour of employment income, which existed before introduction of the unified tax system and the abolition of surtax.

Post-war governments of all political persuasions, except this one, have supported higher taxation of investment income than of employment income.

Mr Cooke might of course argue that post-war governments of all political persuasions have been socialist, except perhaps the current one.

Yours faithfully,
C.B. RUSSELL,
Russell Harman & Co,
Long Meadow,
Cokes Lane,
Chalfont St Giles,
Bucks.

Readers' letters for publication are welcome, but *The Times* regrets it cannot give individual replies or advice.

No legal responsibility can be accepted for any advice given or statements made in these columns. Independent professional advice should always be sought.

Portfolio

PLATINUM

For readers who may have missed a copy of *The Times* this week, we repeat below the week's Portfolio price changes (today's are on page 45)

Share	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th	7th	8th	9th	10th	11th	12th	13th	14th	15th	16th	17th	18th	19th	20th	21st	22nd	23rd	24th	25th	26th	27th	28th	29th	30th	31st	32nd	33rd	34th	35th	36th	37th	38th	39th	40th	41st	42nd	43rd	44th	45th	46th	47th	48th	49th	50th	51st	52nd	53rd	54th	55th	56th	57th	58th	59th	60th	61st	62nd	63rd	64th	65th	66th	67th	68th	69th	70th	71st	72nd	73rd	74th	75th	76th	77th	78th	79th	80th	81st	82nd	83rd	84th	85th	86th	87th	88th	89th	90th	91st	92nd	93rd	94th	95th	96th	97th	98th	99th	100th
1st	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th	7th	8th	9th	10th	11th	12th	13th	14th	15th	16th	17th	18th	19th	20th	21st	22nd	23rd	24th	25th	26th	27th	28th	29th	30th	31st	32nd	33rd	34th	35th	36th	37th	38th	39th	40th	41st	42nd	43rd	44th	45th	46th	47th	48th	49th	50th	51st	52nd	53rd	54th	55th	56th	57th	58th	59th	60th	61st	62nd	63rd	64th	65th	66th	67th	68th	69th	70th	71st	72nd	73rd	74th	75th	76th	77th	78th	79th	80th	81st	82nd	83rd	84th	85th	86th	87th	88th	89th	90th	91st	92nd	93rd	94th	95th	96th	97th	98th	99th	100th
1st	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th	7th	8th	9th	10th	11th	12th	13th	14th	15th	16th	17th	18th	19th	20th	21st	22nd	23rd	24th	25th	26th	27th	28th	29th	30th	31st	32nd	33rd	34th	35th	36th	37th	38th	39th	40th	41st	42nd	43rd	44th	45th	46th	47th	48th	49th	50th	51st	52nd	53rd	54th	55th	56th	57th	58th	59th	60th	61st	62nd	63rd	64th	65th	66th	67th	68th	69th	70th	71st	72nd	73rd	74th	75th	76th	77th	78th	79th	80th	81st	82nd	83rd	84th	85th	86th	87th	88th	89th	90th	91st	92nd	93rd	94th	95th	96th	97th	98th	99th	100th

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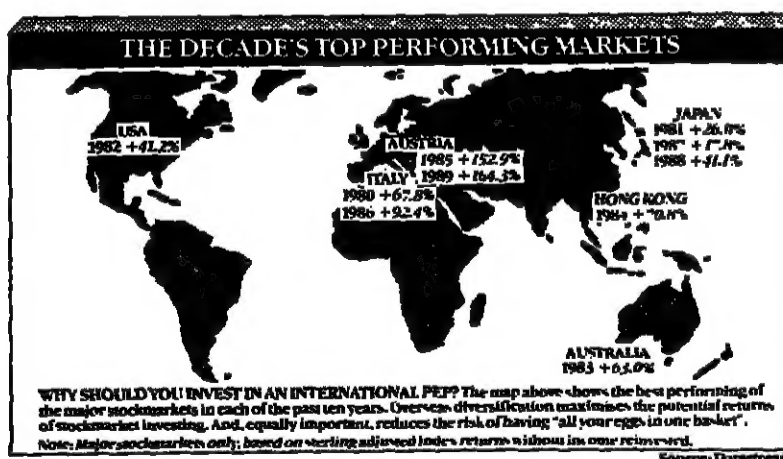
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Thinking about your future?

WEEKEND MONEY

Love at first sight for chairman of NatWest

BUSINESS PROFILE

Lord Alexander
By CAROL LEONARD

If Lord Alexander of Weedon could have written plays, he would never have become the highest paid barrister in Britain. Nor would he have put in appearances as chairman of the Bar Council, of the Takeover Panel and, ultimately, of National Westminster Bank.

As a lanky, oft-quoted under-graduate, Bob Alexander, now aged 53, initially read English at Cambridge University.

"But I decided that I would never make a playwright, I found I was no good at it, and changed to law," he said. Despite the switch, and his recent job-hopping, Alexander maintains he has resisted change since an early age. This trait is manifest in his outspoken criticism of the Lord Chancellor's proposed reforms of the legal system in England and Wales.

It showed earlier, when *The Times* took the decision to remove personal advertisements from the front page. As an impoverished pupil barrister, Alexander supplemented his meagre income by submitting the law reports in this newspaper. And he fed himself in the subsidised canteen.

"I would sub-sit the slugs, go and have supper and then go down to the stone. The composers knew that I was a temporary there after a days work, and would always get my page off early."

He vividly recalls the day, in 1966, when he went down to the stone, where the pages were made, and instead of these long columns of my law reports, they had cut it all about and sections. I didn't like it.

He demanded to see the editor, then Sir William Haley. And to his surprise was given an immediate audience. It was his first lesson in "gentlemanly management skills".

Alexander said: "He gave me the most charmingly gentle lesson on how, whilst he sympathised, life did change and he had to consider circulation and moving on."

Alexander's resistance to the reform of the legal system stems from a belief that Lord Mackay of Clashfern's initial proposals would "threaten the independence of the legal profession".

"They meant that the government would have had a significant degree of control over the development and conduct of the legal profession," said Alexander.

The modified proposals were, he said, "less immediately objectionable," but he still has doubts.

Alexander's main objection was that the proposals were said "as being proposals which would cut delay and cut costs and I don't believe that they are going to make the legal system more accessible. They are a distraction from the main problems of the law."

He is bitterly critical of the government for alienating the judiciary, "instead of seeking its cooperation." This alienation had, he said, "been deeply painful" to him personally and would "need a lot of restoration".

What then were his feelings toward the main source of this "pain"? Lord Mackay. "He is one of considerable personal charm and high intellect," he said diplomatically, struggling to find precisely the right words. "I personally

don't believe that his judgement, with regard to the legal profession, has been wise."

But did he like Lord Mackay?

"I suppose I feel too saddened by what I think is misguided action towards the legal profession."

Some of Alexander's opponents question Alexander's judgement. "He has been married three times," said one pro-reform legal man accusingly.

Others suggest that he should have tackled the issue of legal reform more conclusively during his tenure as chairman of the Bar Council. They argue that by having it off into the Marre Committee he effectively side-stepped the issue.

That said, Alexander was described by Lord Hailsham as the greatest advocate of his generation. It was Alexander who acted for Jeffrey Archer when he sued the *Daily Star*.

"After the case, people came up to me and said you must have had a lot of fun, but they were 21 of the most anxious days I'd had, because so much rode on that case for Jeffrey and his family."

Alexander also represented the government against the GCHQ unions and in the *Spycatcher* case, and defended Geoffrey Collier, the City's first convicted insider trader. Estimates that his salary then topped £500,000 were, he said, "a little on the high side, even in a good year."

The approach from NatWest, made directly by Lord Boardman, the outgoing chairman, came as a complete surprise.

Alexander said: "We knew each other slightly, through the Takeover Panel. He'd been a representative of the committee of London and Scottish banks. He asked if he could come to see me about a

personal matter, as people sometimes do.

"He then discussed the possibility that I might become chairman. We had a fairly inconclusive conversation because I had not anticipated what he had come about and therefore didn't know the right questions to ask."

His decisions to decline two other job offers were made within 24 hours. The NatWest offer warranted two weeks of contemplation.

"I had doubts about whether someone who had not been a banker or had not run a company was right. I talked to other people about what they thought was the value of

having someone like me. But in the end, like most decisions in life, it becomes instinctive. It was a daunting, but exciting, challenge."

He accepted the offer in January last year and was the subject of widespread press speculation. His appointment was finally announced in March last year. He was due to start in January this year, but the date was hurriedly brought forward by three months when Lord Boardman fell victim to the Blue Arrow affair.

Alexander accepted the NatWest chairmanship without having a formal contract of employment. Nor has any formal term of office been agreed.

"There was simply an exchange of two letters... it seemed to me that that was good enough. Informally, it is hoped that I will do the job for not less than five years and not more than ten."

Often criticised by those who have had official dealings with him for being completely unemotional, he avers that his

● I used to travel a lot when I was at the bar, and I always took my wife along, if possible. I find hotel bedrooms so lonely ●

wife Marie would disagree. "Nor would my children say that I was unemotional."

The children, from his first marriage, are David, aged 26, a barrister in insolvency chambers, Mary, aged 24, an arts administrator, and William, aged 20, who works for a West End wine merchant.

Alexander met Marie, now aged 43, and a former fashion model, about nine years ago. She was by then a barrister in her own right, handling mostly legal aid work. They married three years later.

"We met in the Temple," Alexander recalls. "It was, he admits, more or less love at first sight. But with the degree of caution someone has if they've been married before."

During the isolation of his early days at NatWest, it was to Marie that he turned for comfort. The Blue Arrow affair was at its height, morale at the bank was at an all time low, and he knew no one. He had yet to form the warm relationship he now so obviously enjoys with Tom Frost, the bank's chief executive.

Alexander said: "It was a time when I was extremely glad that I was married and had a relationship where I could discuss a lot with my wife."

He still uses her as a sounding board, "and she sometimes gives me her opinion, even if I don't ask for it." She has ceased practicing as a barrister to devote herself to being the chairman's wife.

"There's quite a reasonable-sized role for her here and she decided that for the first year she would rather be able to commit herself to that when necessary. It's tremendously nice for me. When we go to branches, it's marvellous to

have her there," said Alexander. Whenever he travels, he takes his wife along too. "I used to travel a lot when I was at the Bar, and I always took her along, if possible. I find hotel bedrooms so lonely." Hardly the words of an unemotional man.

They now divide their time between a week-day address in Westminster and a country retreat near Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire.

"It's 18th century, bigger than a farm house, but smaller than a mansion. We can shut off the top floor when the children aren't around. But they're with us most weekends."

Once in the country, they play tennis, spend hours reading, "to recharge the batteries", and enjoy gardening.

Holidays are spent at a 17th century house, built around its own courtyard, just south of Bergerac in the Dordogne. In need of redecoration when they bought it, "I poured the drinks for those doing the painting," he confesses, the house also boasts its own chateau, covered in vines.

Back in his expansive office at the bank's Lothbury headquarters, photographs of his family litter a side table. The sunny yellow walls of the room, redecorated at his request, give it more the air of a drawing room in a comfortable country house than of the most important office in one of Britain's biggest banks.

The wall in one corner is entirely covered by enlarged framed photographs of the Grand Canyon, the Rockies, Ayers Rock, the Sydney Opera House, an elephant and a kangaroo. The chairman had taken them all himself. "I've got a very good camera," he said.

The one obvious concession to work is a large, unusual T-shaped desk, which he brought with him from his chambers at 1 Brick Court. He is clearly a sentimental man, too.

Alexander has always voted for the Conservative party. "But sometimes only just," he said, while refusing to be called a "wet". "Economically I'm very supportive of the steps the government has taken, in general terms, over the last ten years."

Often described as having come from humble origins, Alexander's childhood was, he said, "perfectly reasonable". His father, who died 25 years ago, "just after I had been called to the bar", ran his own filling station and motor repair garage in Newcastle-under-Lyme.

"It was a very loving relationship with both my parents. We had a reasonably nice four-bedroom house. And we were very lucky that both my father and mother, although they had left school at the minimum ages, were committed to the idea of their children having an education. My brother and I owe them a great debt for that."

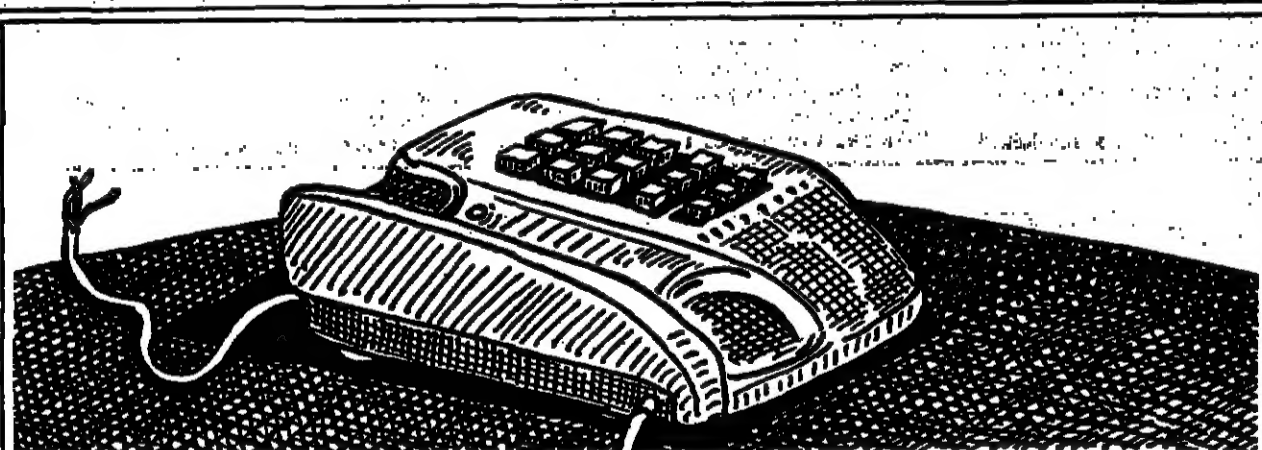
His brother Neil, five years his junior, is now the finance director of Riva, a point-of-sale company in Bolton, Greater Manchester.

But what would his father have made of this latest twist in his eldest son's heady career, had he lived to see it? "He would probably have asked for a loan to expand his garage business," the chairman jests.

"But I think he banked with Barclays."



Sweet scent of family life: Lord Alexander and his wife Marie at the couple's house in Westminster



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Triggering a case for larger premiums

CAPITAL CITY

PHILIP ROBINSON IN LOS ANGELES

AS IF insurance rates for cars and health were not high enough in Los Angeles, a new driving hazard threatens to push premiums even higher: motorists have revived the three-year-old practice of shooting each other on the freeway.

Police fear life's frustrations are again being taken out on the roads, which are so crowded they can barely handle the traffic as it is. They say freeway shootings are running six times higher than last year. One driver has died, others have been seriously injured and the number of violent acts, from aggressive hand signs to pointing an automatic gun from the car window, are up 400 per cent.

Freeway violence is nothing new among the state's 17 million motorists, but the frequency of the incidents is causing serious concern among California's highway patrol. They fear a repetition of 1987, when they had to set up a hot-line telephone number to cope with the reports of shooting incidents.

Three years ago, the shootings were confined to the County of Los Angeles. This year, the targets are on the eight-lane highways of the boom town of Irvine, one of the fastest growing areas of the US, in LA's neighbouring Orange County.

Experts are baffled at the resurgence of highway behaviour and police fear shootings will increase as the temperatures climb this summer. A record 112°F was reached in LA last week, and a further two freeway shootings were reported on the same day. One driver careered off the road after another car pulled up alongside and its driver plugged three shots into the side of his Volkswagen. Police said there was no obvious motive.

More drivers tell police they routinely carry guns in their cars to defend



Slow flow on one of LA's freeways

themselves. A psychologist at California University says the motorists are displaying classic symptoms of overcrowding. There are now more cars and road works, leading to more congestion.

On one stretch of the 405 freeway, which links the San Fernando Valley with San Diego, the rush hour count on the four-lane north-bound carriageway is 165,000 cars an hour. Observers point to the poor standard of driving, which compounds the problem and gives overseas visitors the impression that the

southern California motorists training manual is based largely on *Ben Hur*.

LA motorists spend an average of three hours a day in peak-hour traffic. The morning rush is peppered with drivers shaving, combing their hair, reading the morning paper, and eating breakfast, all at speeds of between 55mph and 75mph. There is scant regard for keeping a safe distance from the car in front.

These examples only serve to fuel arguments by insurance companies that Californian car rates should go up not down, despite the electorate voting for a decrease two years ago.

Car insurance ranks the third largest part of a typical Los Angeles household budget after the mortgage and payment for a car.

An average two-car family with a clean driving record could still be paying annual premiums of between \$2,500 and \$3,000.

California is the third most expensive state in the US to insure a car. The insurance companies point out that it is also the most expensive state for health care and legal fees which often accompany a car crash are costly.

State Farm, California's largest insurer, with 3.2 million car policies and \$2.3 billion in annual premium income, says that for every car it insured in LA which was involved in an accident last year, it lost \$615 on each. The comparable figure in San Francisco was \$264.

SUMMARY

Quick exit
by M&G

M&G, the biggest unit trust group, has withdrawn from the unit trust ombudsman scheme because it says there have been few complaints. The decision is a blow to the scheme, which has been trying to encourage more of the 150 unit trust companies to join. Page 54

First Love



Lord Alexander of Weedon, chairman of the National Westminster Bank, talks to Carol Leonard about love, literature and the law. Page 55

Going missing

Life insurance companies may take seven years to pay up after someone goes missing and is presumed to have died. Pension schemes are equally reluctant to pay out when a member disappears. Page 52

Unit trusts

Savers can check the performance of their investments in the unit trust performance table. The statistics makes it easier for investors to compare their funds with others in the same sector. Page 44

Homes threat

Homeowners should beware of brochures which promise to "unlock" the value of their properties. Pensioners and younger owners have been turning to such equity release schemes to raise extra cash. Page 50

Price war

Managers are still confused over exactly how to price unit trusts, more than two years after rules were brought in to end the confusion. Page 50

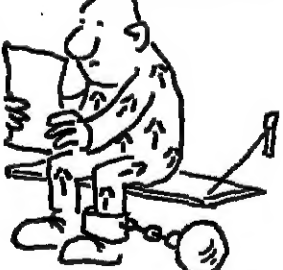
Globe trotting

The battle for Globe Investment Trust by the British Coal Pension Funds reaches a crescendo next week. But many of the private investors who together hold 28 per cent of Globe shares are unsure whether to hold on to their stakes. Page 52

Your views



"...should you like to borrow more..."



The collapse of Dunsdale Securities is still causing concern among Weekend Money readers, along with the problem of unwanted mail and direct debits. Page 53

Dowty rises

Dowty, the aerospace and electronics group, reported higher-than-expected profits in 1989 and moved further away from dependence on the defence industry by announcing a £45 million investment in a new landing gear facility in Canada. Page 41

Tax dropped

The East German parliament has scrapped an import tax, only two days before it was due to be implemented. The 11 per cent tax on some consumer goods was intended to shield East German companies from West German competition after monetary union between the two countries tomorrow. Page 42

Girobank sale

The Labour Party is calling for the National Audit Office to investigate the sale of Girobank to Alliance & Leicester building society. Page 40

Complaints mount over student 'grants' ruse after watchdog reprimands insurer

By LINDSAY COOK
MONEY EDITOR

INSURANCE company, Reliance Mutual, was this week publicly reprimanded by the Life Assurance and Unit Trust Regulatory Organisation (Lautro) for not investigating complaints about the way one of its agents sold policies to students and for failing to monitor properly the staff of that agent.

Six months after the Lautro disciplinary hearing and long after the regulator accepted that steps had been taken by Reliance Mutual to implement appropriate compliance procedures, another agent is causing similar complaints to be made.

Its insurance sales teams, selling policies to students in the guise of grants, have been banned from the halls of residence of one university and are causing concern at others.

The company, Students and Graduates Financial Planning Division (SGFPD), pushes cards under the doors of students in the halls of residences claiming to offer "grants" to students.

The cards can be mistaken for an official communication from the university itself, and nowhere on the cards does the word "insurance" appear.

Brunel University was so concerned that last month it wrote to SGFPD, which is the tied agent of Reliance Mutual saying that its representatives were not welcome. Brunel pointed out that the residences were private property and that it could take legal action for trespass.

The National Union of Students has received complaints from several other universities about the sales tactics used by SGFPD, which it claims exploit the current opposition to student loans, due to be introduced in September.

In large red letters on the front of the folded cards left in students' rooms are the words "Grants Not Loans" and, in smaller lettering, "Last Chance This Year". On some campuses the company has also provided literature explaining how the government scheme works, adding to the potential for confusion.

Overleaf the card starts: "Loans are coming in next term - you are going to need them!" It continues: "We offer grants in the form of phased contributions to financial plans directly relevant to student objectives - so take advantage."

"We can show you a way to guarantee a top-up to a 100 per cent mortgage (subject to status) so you can avoid saving a deposit for your first house."

"Take the SGFPD grants that are still on offer whilst they remain available."

"The amount of grant to which you are entitled can be advised by telephone or personal visit, or by post if you complete the attached enquiry card."

These "grants" are only available to students who take out a Reliance Mutual insurance policy under a scheme called the "student option plan".



Misleading: Russell Gill, president of Brunel students union, has received complaints from parents and students over 'grant' sales

The so-called grants are, in reality, a rebate of the commission received by the tied agent. The card does not reveal that SGFPD is the appointed representative of Reliance Mutual and can only sell its policies.

The way the "grant" scheme works is as follows. If a student agrees to pay £30 a month in premiums he or she receives a grant rebate voucher book. These vouchers have to be filled in after the full premiums are paid and sent to SGFPD. Then a cheque for £10 is sent to the student rebating part of the commission paid to the company by Reliance Mutual. The students receive these rebates for a total of 32 or 33 months.

It is obviously successful in selling insurance to students throughout Britain. John Berry, SGFPD's managing director, told Weekend Money: "We have several hundred thousand pounds of strictly client money in what we call our grant rebate account." He

said that it was paid on demand "on a very regular basis."

Mr Berry explained that his company, which has been in business since 1971, sold on all campuses. He admitted that it has "in the course of that time had conversations with people asking us not to put out leaflets."

He did not specifically recall the correspondence with Brunel.

Reliance Mutual claims to be quite happy with the card and the selling techniques of its tied agent.

Insurance companies were recently warned by the Life Assurance and Unit Trust Regulatory Organisation that they should control their agents more rigorously.

At Reliance Mutual, Philip Bowden, life and pensions manager, said that it had fully approved the "drop card." He said: "The 'grants not loans' card is something which is obviously right at the beginning of the process. It is sent to potential clients. We're not too worried

about it because although it's headed 'grants not loans' it goes on very quickly to say afterwards 'we offer grants in the form of phased contributions to financial plans.'"

"It's not as if it's totally hiding anything. In our opinion it draws attention to financial plans."

Mr Bowden maintains it is not misleading. "You don't apply for a grant as such. You apply for more information which is then followed up with a personal visit, if that is what the student wants. At that personal visit a full fact-find or personal analysis takes place and following on from that a recommendation is made."

Mr Bowden said Reliance Mutual was fully responsible for its agents and he would dispute that they were involved in hard-selling in any way.

"My impression of hard-selling is somebody who basically knocks on the door and doesn't go away unless you actually threaten to complain to the police," he said.

One student, who took out a

whole of life unit-linked policy for £30 a month is Daniel Epstein, who is studying politics and modern history at Brunel. He was given a book of 31 £10 vouchers to use over 31 months, plus a discount on his first payment. It was intended that he pay the premiums for the rest of his life. On normal life expectancy this would have cost him about £19,800 in premiums and he would have received a total rebate of £320.

He claims he did not receive a right to cancel notice when he took out the policy last November. However, Mr Berry says that a brochure was sent to the student which detailed the statutory 14 days period which he had to withdraw from the contract. Anyone who does not receive the cancellation notice when taking

out a policy can cancel any time within the first two years.

There is no surrender value in the policies for five years, so those who change their minds lose the premiums they have paid.

Russell Gill, the president of the students' union at Brunel, said: "The leaflets are put under the doors in the halls. They parade themselves as the student grants scheme. They actually fooled one of the academics. I have had students and parents complain to me. The leaflets are misleading."

He added: "Brunel is a predominantly male university and all the people from the company that I have seen have been saleswomen wearing very short skirts." A National Union of Students spokesman said: "Quite a number of campuses have excluded them in the past because of the way they approach students. We are concerned that the policies are inappropriate for students on a tight budget."

A spokesman for the Association of British Insurers said: "This is where best advice should come in. If the company conducted a fact-find with the student a whole of life policy is unlikely to come out on top of the list for someone so young."

On being told that the policy in question was for £30 a month for a student receiving £130 a month the ABI spokesman said: "I cannot see a reason why that would be justified."

Buying an insurance policy could not guarantee a mortgage at some time in the future. That would depend on income, availability of funds and the property the person wanted to buy, he said.

At SGFPD Bev Myers said that the card was "pretty self-explanatory" and did not need to include the word insurance.

"We are dealing with a lot of students and in some cases we work in coordination with the universities," she said. When asked to clarify the involvement of universities she said the company advertised in university publications throughout England and Northern Ireland.

She claimed Lautro, which regulates Reliance Mutual and its tied agents, had "approved" the card before it was used. "We go by a very strict regime," she said.

Asked to explain how taking out a whole of life policy could guarantee a mortgage later on, Miss Myers said that the company also had a house purchase advice centre. Under the option plan the student could convert the policy into an endowment policy after three years.

Kit Jebens, chief executive of Lautro, said: "Lautro is looking at this card issued by SGFPD and are taking the matter up with the member concerned. Lautro is particularly concerned that investments should be sold only where they are suitable and they should be judged on what the investment is and not on the basis of any gifts or rebates of commission."

Rules governing student loans await go-ahead by Commons

By OUR MONEY EDITOR

STUDENTS will have even less to spend on insurance policies from September. Their grants will be frozen at the 1989-90 level and they will have to borrow under the student loans scheme if they want more.

The rules governing student loans were presented to the House of Lords this week and still have to be affirmed by the Commons with only two months to go to introduction of the scheme. About 500,000 students will qualify for loans of up to £460.

No documentation is available yet for students, colleges or universities. The Student Loans Company is currently taking a roadshow around campuses explaining how the scheme will work.

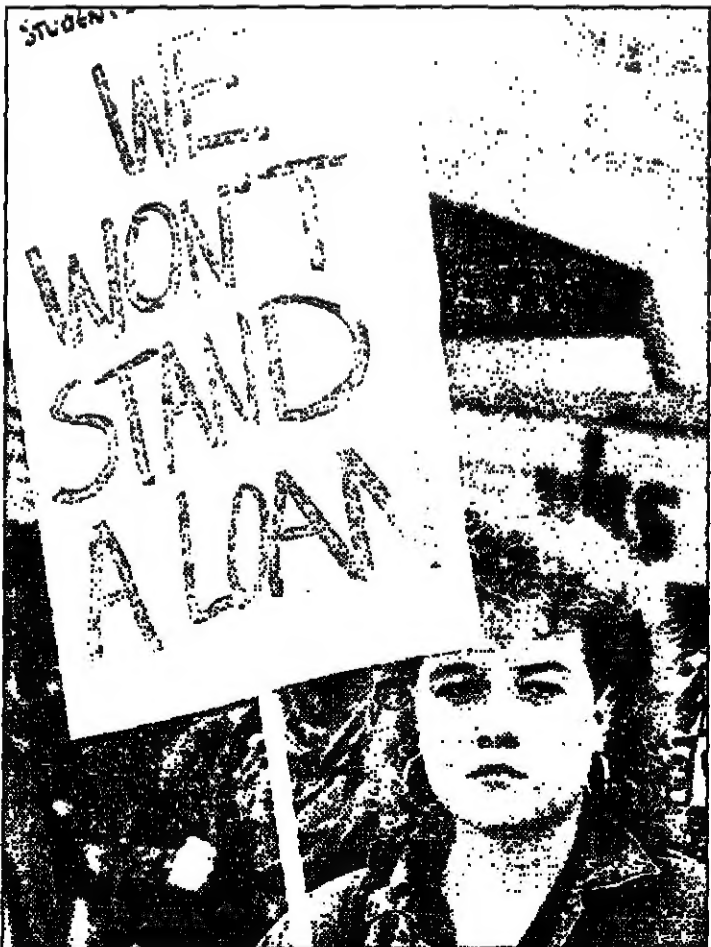
Meanwhile, the National Union of Students is worried that students will have to wait months for money they will need to pay their bills.

A spokesman for the NUS said: "It will take months for students to get their loans. They have not realised how difficult it will be to administer the scheme."

Since the high street banks withdrew from the scheme last December the company has had to set up its systems from scratch. There is a students loans helpline on 041 248 8000 but this does not yet have specific details of how the loans will work.

Students will have to apply to the Glasgow-based company for a loan and to establish that they are a bona fide student. Loans can be taken in up to three payments into the student's bank account during the academic year. Interest will be charged in line with the retail prices index during the course and until the loan is paid off.

The payments begin the April following the completion of the course or when the borrower's salary reaches 85 per cent of the



Protest: students face having their grants frozen

national average wage. Currently this would mean a student would have to earn £11,500 before they started repayment. Those taking a three-year course will have five years to clear their debt and longer courses can have up to seven years.

In March the student loans bill was amended to take account of the Consumer Credit Act 1974, which makes it an offence to solicit loan business from people under 18. This would have prevented literature being sent to

sixth formers. To avoid the problem those under 18 will not be charged interest. This will exempt at least 100,000 students, most of them in Scotland.

A large proportion of all students will return home this summer in debt even before the student loans scheme begins. According to education department statistics 43 per cent have overdrafts at the end of the academic year averaging £351. London students on average owe £528.

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